

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MONTHLY MEETING
MARCH 18, 2014**

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

CALL TO ORDER

S. Ruhl called the Special Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:03 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: B. Egan, S. Ruhl, M-E Fernandes, M. Zollo, D. Palange

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: J. DeGennaro, A. Sirowich

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Treasurer Michael Krenesky, Joe Rodorigo

MINUTES

B. Egan made a motion to approve the February, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes, as presented. M.E. Fernandes noted that she asked whether the Nancy Ave lots were vacant, and someone else confirmed that they were vacant lots. **M.E. Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes.**

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public present.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. The Cardboard Boat Regatta will take place again on Saturday, July 12th and the commission would like to drum up more interest by involving Woodland students or other groups and getting the word out soon.
2. Canoe/Kayak will follow the Cardboard Boat Race on the same day.

Town Treasurer Mike Krenesky and Joe Rodorigo entered the meeting at 7:06 & 7:07 PM respectively.

B.Egan made a motion to allow Comments from the Public at this time. M.E. Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- A. Town Treasurer Mike Krenesky commented on the request for a PayPal account which can be linked to the Parks & Recreation website to allow payments for programs through the website. The question is where to connect the account and it is logical to attach it to the current Special Activities account, which is intended for programs. The PayPal would only allow deposits, not withdrawals and Mike is concerned that no monies can be withdrawn from the account. Mike, as Treasurer, would be the name and contact on the account and once it is established, he would send the link to us to put on the website. He

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will work on the process in the next 2 weeks and get back to the commission to try and get it done and ready for us. This account is the town's account, so Mike wants to be sure there are no issues with a municipal PayPal account and Parks & Recreation would be the first ones to collect monies this way through a town account.

- B. S. Ruhl asked J. Rodorigo about the readiness of the fields for Opening Day on April 12th. The town crew has been in touch with the contractor finishing Field #1 and he is ready to move forward when conditions allow. The weather will be the determining factor, if it is ready on time. Field #1 will be closed until Opening Day. Right now, the fields are locked. Opening Day is earlier than it has been in the past, due to Little League rules, so time is short. D. Palange noted that the League talked about delaying Opening Day ceremonies, if Field #1 is not ready. The Street Department and Commission all hope to be ready to go on April 12th. D. Palange noted that most teams will be scheduled to play on Opening weekend. It will be the League's decision whether to hold the ceremony on time.
- C. J. Rodorigo noted that the Sugar Shak personnel have been in touch and the water will be turned on before the end of March, so they can clean. The hood will be steam cleaned, so the Health Department can issue their certificate so they will be ready to go.

A. MATTHIES PARK (continued)

3. The State has not yet responded to S. Ruhl's request to establish the house as an historic site.
4. Winter work is getting done; the town crew elevated the canopy of the Pines at the entrance, removed some dead trees. There is \$7,000-\$8,000 left in the budget to spend before the end of June. \$2,000 of those monies is committed to the pond. The Town Crew Foreman is putting together a list of work needed which will use those monies.

B. PENT ROAD

See above.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

No updates to Riverbend Park. The committee is waiting for a call back and approval on their proposal which was submitted about 3 weeks ago. They expect a response in 4-5 weeks from date of submission.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

1. Basketball Leagues are now finished.
2. Baseball and Softball sign-ups are now over, with a few new registrations straggling in.
3. Field Use applications for spring were due to the Board by the March meeting. RACBL has issued their application.
4. The Beacon Falls Softball application was submitted and meets the commission's criteria. If/when Girls' Softball moves to Little League they cease to be a town entity and become a Little League entity, so they will need to supply a new insurance certificate at that time.

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5. Another application came in from the Beacon Falls Fire Department for a Men's Softball League and they are requesting a field to practice on and to play on. The Softball League can offer the Fire Dept. times to practice on Field #3. Field #2's fence is only 240 ft. deep, so adults can hit outside that area easily. Field #2 is not an option, especially when Field #4 is in use. Also, if they play on Field #3, no games/practices can be held on Field #4 or #5 while they are on the field. It would be too dangerous. The RACBL uses those fields every evening for practice. We would encourage the Fire Department to contact the RACBL, as they are setting up their schedule, to see if there is a time that the adults can practice/play on Field #3 when no one is using Field #4 or #5. Field #3 is not fenced, which is another potential safety issue. Maybe weekend late afternoons are an option. Monday through Friday and Saturday mornings those fields are busy. S. Ruhl will give the Fire Department some options.
6. D. Palange noted that the leagues are hoping to improve the batting cages and possibly put down turf in those cages. Some fencing companies have come out to provide quotes. The RACBL hopes to put together a fundraiser for turf in the cages and their money would fund the improvements. S. Ruhl noted that the Commission would need an insurance certificate for any contractor doing work at Pent Road.

E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. B. Egan reported the Annual Fishing Rodeo with St. Michael's Men's Club is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The Men's Club will order the fish, which are paid for by the town and the pond should be stocked that Thursday. The gates would then be locked on Friday. The Men's Club will provide prizes and refreshments.
2. Family Fishing Class is Thursday, April 24th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Senior Center (moved from Wednesday). The fishing trip is Sunday, April 27th.
3. The Family Day Fireworks celebration will take place July 12th with buses running to Pent Road beginning at 6:30 PM.
4. On that same day, the commission will sponsor a 2nd Annual Cardboard Boat Regatta and the annual Canoe/Kayak Day at Matthies Park. The Cardboard Boats will launch around 10:30 AM and the Canoe/Kayak event will last from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM. The Cardboard Boat Race needs to be announced as soon as possible so people have a chance to build their boats and enter.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Denise from the Finance Office has forms which need to be completed for anyone running programs. They include a form for paying vendors, a form requesting reimbursement and the Town's tax id information when making purchases. They will be distributed to the members.
- B. Mike Krenesky is working on obtaining a town credit card, which will be available to use for departments making purchases for the town. The purchases/credit card use would be authorized through the Finance office. S. Ruhl hopes between the credit card and the PayPal account, this will cut down on paperwork.

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- C. Denise also wants anyone who dropping monies off at the Town Hall to obtain a receipt from the Finance Office. Receipts need to be distributed to anyone paying for programs by check or cash.

CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

See above. Applications have been received and are being reviewed.

GRANTS

The commission did not receive the recycling bin grant from Dr. Pepsi/Snapple.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

The commission received a bill from the Citizen's News for an ad placed for the Baseball and Softball Leagues advertising their annual sign-ups. This bill comes out of the Recreation Programming Activities line item. **B. Egan made a motion to pay the Citizen's News bill. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.**

BUDGET

- A. The budget was submitted as is. It will be under consideration by the Board of Finance.
B. Parks & Recreation have sponsored Senior Center programs in the past. The Senior Center would like these monies in their own programming budget moving forward. This may reduce the Recreation Programming Activity line item, as these funds may come out of Parks & Recreation budget and be moved to the Senior Center budget.
C. Fireworks are in the budget for this year. The fireworks show should be no shorter than 20 minutes. S. Ruhl asked about next year's fireworks budget and if the taxpayers will support fireworks in the future. He considered if we can combine with another town's fireworks display.

OTHER BUSINESS - None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

B. Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission