

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MONTHLY MEETING  
JANUARY 20, 2015**

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

S. Ruhl called the Special Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:00 PM.

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Sirowich

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

**MINUTES**

**B. Egan made a motion to approve the December, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No public present.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. MATTHIES PARK**

There are 2 requests to use the park this winter.

1. Zach Norwicky, who is a Senior at Woodland, would like to use Matthies Park as part of a 5k run which he is planning for his senior project. The route would follow the Cross Country team's course which takes you through the park. The 5k run/2k walk will benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. It is scheduled to take place on March 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 AM until Noon. M-E Fernandez asked if there is any issue with the park being used by out of town people for the run. J. DeGennaro commented that the park may be quite wet and muddy at that time. Zach would need to complete a 2015 Facilities Application and obtain insurance coverage for the event through Region 16. **M.E. Fernandes made a motion to approve the use of the park for the 5k run event in March, with proper application and insurance. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.**
2. Sophie Zyla has requested use of the park for Young Naturalist programs for ages 5-7 and ages 9-12. She intends to do a Wildlife Tracking program on February 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM until 10:30AM and another program on March 28<sup>th</sup> at the same times. She will also need to complete a 2015 Facilities Application. She has been working with Beacon Falls Library to present programming as well.

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**B. PENT ROAD**

1. All fields should be completed by spring opening day.
2. RACBL completed their Facilities Application and handed it in to the Commission through D. Palange. RACBL noted that Laurel Ledge will not be available to them this spring, so they will need to fit T-Ball and Coach Pitch teams into practice time at Pent Road.

**C. RIVERBEND PARK**

B. Egan reported that the committee has not met recently and there is no change in the status of the project.

**D. SPORTS LEAGUES**

- A. Basketball League is moving along. The League lost a weekend of play last weekend due to construction.
- B. Baseball/Softball sign-ups will be coming shortly in February. RACBL has new officers coming in this year.

**E. PARK ACTIVITIES**

- A. J. DeGennaro reported that Zumba for Kids is currently the only activity running. It is popular program with a good following and dates are booked through June.
- B. D. Palange has 10-12 people currently signed up for the day long ski trip to Butternut on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. He has flyers promoting the event and he will continue to publicize. February 6<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for filling a 55 seat bus. The trip will not run without more participation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. S. Ruhl met with Susan Talbot, who is the new Director of the Naugatuck YMCA. She is interested in bringing youth programming and teen programming to Beacon Falls by making the community more aware of what Naugatuck YMCA offers. M. Zollo noted that years ago a bus was available to take kids to Naugatuck YMCA.
- B. S. Ruhl explained that some of the offerings available are Life Saving classes, Swim Lessons, open swim nights. They also run programs like an open mike night for teenagers which is a karaoke sing along. Beacon Falls would provide the location for the event and YMCA would run the program. A Model UN program is another offering.
- C. Finally, YMCA runs a full day summer recreation program. Depending on whether or not A. Sirowich will continue as Director of the summer recreation program, the YMCA may be able to help out by running a similar program for the town.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None at this time.

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**APPLICATIONS**

- A. RACBL submitted their application for the spring season.
- B. Applications are expected for the two programs previously discussed running at Matthies Park.
- C. D. Palange asked if the out of town Travel teams need to complete applications and the commission advised that yes they should complete the application as soon as possible.
- D. S. Ruhl noted that we should publicize that applications are due in as soon as possible. The earlier the better for scheduling purposes.

**GRANTS**

The commission received a check for the latest Katherine Matthies Foundation grant for the new swing set.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

S. Ruhl asked for a motion to pay O'Brien & Sons for the playground equipment (swing sets) which are to be paid for through the Katharine Matthies grant monies. **D. Palange made a motion to pay the invoice. J. DeGennaro seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**BUDGET**

- A. B.Egan asked about the Concert line item in the budget and how much remains for the current fiscal year. He will use the balance of this year's funds for concerts in the month of June.
- B. S. Ruhl submitted the same budget for the upcoming year, which is currently approved for 2014-2015.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**B. Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM. J. DeGennaro seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz  
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission