

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

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

S. Ruhl called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:06 PM.

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Sirowich

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

**MINUTES**

**B. Egan made a motion to approve the January, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. J. DeGennaro seconded the motion. All ayes.**

There was no meeting for the months of February and March.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No public present.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. MATTHIES PARK**

1. Sophie Zyla completed a nature study with children at the park. She had a good showing and looked at wildlife that is native.
2. S. Ruhl noted that they are looking towards treating the water in the pond and there was some additional vandalism where signs were thrown in the water. The signs need to be removed.
3. S. Ruhl noted that many people do not know that Matthies Park is there. He would like to ask for funds for a sign for Matthies Park directing people to the park. He would consider a simple sign from the highway or as you enter Matthies Park. It would be advertise the park and publicize it.
4. M.E. Fernandez asked who to speak about construct horse/foot trails on the far side of the pond. If a group wanted to cut branches and create a trail that would they need to get approval from, since it would be at the discretion of the town. S. Ruhl noted that they could start by coming to a Parks & Recreation meeting to present their plan and the request could move forward from there. He noted that if the trail is marked, the town may be able to cut the trail. He also asked for a timeline of when they would like work completed.

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5. D. Palange noted the trail is in the same part of the park that the commission had discussed promoting sledding during the winter. S. Ruhl noted that he would still like to see skating and a winter event and he noted the more usage of the park, the better.
6. M-E Fernandez also noted that the signs for the bridges which state "For Pedestrian Use Only" still need to be replaced.

**B. PENT ROAD**

1. Opening Day was a big success, well attended and the fields looked great. The event was split with Baseball at Pent and Softball at Woodland which led to some complaints due to the inconvenience.
2. All the Fields have been cut. Sod needs to be added around Field #5. They need a 2 week window when there is no usage, so S. Ruhl plans to wait to finish Field #5 for the fall, since the fields will see so much usage.
3. S. Ruhl asked about fees for travel/non-resident teams and what is stated in the 2015 Facilities Application. There are travel team applications pending and there are Beacon Falls players on these teams.
4. The Softball League application is currently incomplete and more information is needed.
5. There has been a request to turn on the lights for the basketball courts which will be addressed. Lights will be on as long as behavior is good on the courts.
6. S. Ruhl also has an application request for Junior Hawks to use the fields this spring. Soccer is not playing in town this spring, but will return in the fall. Discussion followed about potential soccer fields in town at Matthies and the new soccer field at Laurel Ledge.

**C. RIVERBEND PARK**

B. Egan noted that the committee met 3 weeks ago and the timeline and cost write up has been reviewed and accepted. The State of Connecticut was happy with what was sent them. The committee met with the original surveyor, whose map dates back to 2001. The committee is hoping for the signed letter within a month, so work should move forward shortly after receipt of this approval.

**D. SPORTS LEAGUES**

1. S. Ruhl noted that the Commission needs to send a basketball subsidy check to Beacon Falls Basketball League, c/o Steve Leeper, their Treasurer.
2. Baseball and softball leagues are underway and starting the season with busy fields.
3. D. Palange noted that batting cages still need to be completed and he is getting prices this week. The town is working on hanging nets behind home plate in foul ball territory for safety. The same company quoted nets in the batting cage. The league has talked about getting the groundwork donated and they are still determining whether the ground will be crushed stone or clay. D. Palange spoke to the town's Parks staff about having the nets hung properly for mowing. They will need nets that slide down and a canopy is also needed at a cost which is reasonable.
4. The policy for rainouts is that D. Palange will talk to Steve Moffat during the day around 3:30 PM and make a decision at that time, so he can then publicize rainouts.

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5. Lights will be needed on the fields for Friday night doubleheaders starting May 8<sup>th</sup>. The town is working on replacing lights on the fields.
6. There have also been issues with messes in the press box, broken doors on the shed. D. Palange plans to bolt construction boxes to the floor of the shed to store equipment and minimize theft/vandalism. The league is also purchasing a pad for behind home plate for balls missed by the catcher.
7. S. Ruhl noted that the weekend of May 1<sup>st</sup> there is a large Softball Tournament at Pent Road, and the complex will be very busy.

**E. PARK ACTIVITIES**

- A. M-E Fernandez asked who books the entertainment for fireworks and S. Ruhl and B. Egan noted that they have been happy with the band they have been using but if someone else is interested, they will consider.
- B. Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> is the date selected for the cleaning and planting of the medians by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Beacon Valley Gardens is donating flowers to medians. S. Ruhl hopes they groups can return in September to clean up. The clean-up will be from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM.
- C. S. Ruhl is working on a second summer recreation camp option for the kids. At noon, buses will come to Pent Road and take kids to YMCA in Naugatuck. A flyer is being put together. Cost is \$100 per week. The Town will cover transportation to Naugatuck. Pick up in Naugatuck at 4:00 PM. Mon, Tues, Wed and Friday. Swimming, gym time, outdoor play, etc. Children can stay at the YMCA until 6:00 PM for extra \$30.00. The program is for ages 5-15. S. Ruhl is working on getting paperwork together for registration.
- D. The Naugatuck YMCA also wants to offer 3 open mike nights on St. Michael's Green throughout the summer months.
- E. B. Egan noted Fishing Rodeo is this Saturday from 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Fish being delivered this Thursday at 4:00 PM. St. Michael's Men's' Club is cooking and providing prizes.
- F. J. Degennaro has programs running through May, June, July – Tennis, Volleyball, Swimming and she will provide details soon.
- G. Cardboard Boat Race on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Kayak/Canoe - July 11<sup>th</sup>. Fireworks at dusk.
- H. There is a group interested in starting a Running Club and mapping out a course in town which will run through Main Street, Lancaster Drive and Pent Road area.

J. Degennaro left the meeting at 7:45 PM.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. There is a vacancy on the board and S. Ruhl is looking for a new person who would be interested in running the Summer Recreation Program.
- B. The bronze plaque for the Katharine Matthies Foundation still needs to be installed at the park.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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None at this time.

**APPLICATIONS**

S. Ruhl noted that he has a stack of applications from groups such as:

United Day School

Suzie Foundation for a Softball Tournament in August

Girl Scouts

Region 16 - Woodland High School spring usage of fields

Beacon Falls Softball and RACBL

He is reviewing and processing all of the requests.

**GRANTS**

The Katharine Matthies Foundation grant is due by May 1<sup>st</sup> and M-E Fernandez will look into applying to the Katharine Matthies Foundation for a Matthies Park sign and for the construction of the new trail.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

None.

**BUDGET**

Nothing new on budget as it is going to Public Hearing this week. The budget submitted was the same as the existing budget.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**B. Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz  
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission