

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MAY 18, 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 7:10 PM.

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Sirowich, B. Egan

OTHERS PRESENT: Dino Verrelli, Eric Cybulski, Naomi DiGoia

MINUTES

J. DeGennaro made a motion to approve the April, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

S. Ruhl began the meeting by discussing **NEW BUSINESS.**

Members of the public are present to consider joining the Parks & Recreation Commission. S. Ruhl explained that the commission is looking for members who will focus on programming for children and adults, and who can devote time toward planning and arranging programs. S. Ruhl noted that the commission is looking to hold activities which will utilize the parks to their fullest. J. DeGennaro noted that the finding a site to hold programs is the biggest challenge. The schools are the best sites, but availability of the schools is the main issue.

S. Ruhl noted that Parks & Recreation is teaming up with the Naugatuck YMCA 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. Transportation is still being worked out and the cost of busing is being explored. Pick up in Naugatuck at 4:00 PM. The YMCA option will be Mon, Tues, Wed and Friday during the weeks of the Summer Recreation camp. Children can stay at the YMCA until 6:00 PM for extra \$30.00. The program is for ages 5-15.

The Naugatuck YMCA also has several programs focused on Autism awareness and they are celebrating their 150th anniversary with autism as their cause. Finally, the Naugatuck YMCA also wants to offer 3 open mike nights on St. Michael's Green throughout the summer months. Open mike nights are already planned for the Naugatuck Green and Beacon Falls is invited to join these events also.

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S. Ruhl noted to the public for anyone who is interested in being appointed to the commission, the board can use help.

Saturday, June 6th 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. The clean-up will be from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. The EDC has monies to spend on redoing the medians and they hope to have this work completed before June 6th. Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts will be contacted to confirm they are available.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. Sophie Zyla has completed a comprehensive study of the park and S. Ruhl is looking into ways to publicize her research.
2. During the next grant cycle, S. Ruhl wishes to apply for a large sign for Matthies Park by the driveway to Woodland, which will make the park more noticeable.
3. M.E. Fernandes noted that the equestrian group can forge rough trails and she will approach the First Selectmen at their next meeting about marking trails for use.

B. PENT ROAD

There was a major issue at Pent Road where a fight brought out on the basketball courts. One of the RACBL coaches tried to break it up and they swung at him. Issues mainly involve out of town players on the basketball courts. There are problems with swearing and presence of drugs in the parking lot at the Recreation Complex, particularly later in the evening. All of this is a negative influence on the leagues, children and families using the complex. D. Palange and S. Ruhl agreed that more police presence is needed at the complex. Regular patrols are needed to ensure safety. Cameras are an option which has been discussed in the past. The other option is keeping the courts locked unless players have a permit. If courts are locked, this also invited vandalism, so the commission would prefer to keep the courts unlocked. This is an issue for the First Selectman needs to address as soon as possible.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

Nothing new to report on progress with the park. D. Palange asked if the fuel cell energy plant is near the park and it will not interfere with the park.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

1. Batting cage repairs are in progress with the RACBL working with the town crew.
2. Sports subsidies, which are part of the Parks and Recreation budget, have not been requested by the baseball, softball, football or soccer leagues. Basketball has been paid. Subsidies need to be paid out before June 30th.

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E. PARK ACTIVITIES

- A. J. DeGennaro has the following programs running for the summer months: Swim Lessons at Woodland from June 29 – July 3. Tennis lessons from Mark Pizzi will run several weeks throughout the summer and Jess will also run a volleyball camp. She has another tennis teacher, K. Hourigan who would like to hold lessons at Woodland for both children and adults.
- B. J. DeGennaro also noted that she has someone interested in teaching Zumba for adults but may wait until the fall to arrange classes when the schools are available. She does not have a site for the summer months.
- C. Summer Recreation camp plans are coming along and are where they should be according to A. Sirowich.
- D. The Cardboard Boat Race is scheduled for July 11th. Publicity and registration forms are going out. S. Ruhl has also contacted Mainstream Kayak and they will provide boats for the Kayak/Canoe day on July 11th. Fireworks will take place at dusk on July 11th and Steve Tilke will provide music again at Pent Road.

NEW BUSINESS

In other new business, the town is considering the purchase of the Powanski property once again which would eventually lead to the possibility of new field space at Pent Road.

CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

S. Ruhl asked for a motion to approve an application for a May 25th Birthday party at Pent Road from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM for 25 kids. **J. DeGennaro made a motion to approve the application and D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.**

GRANTS

The commission did not apply for a Katharine Matthies grant this year. Next year, the intention is to apply for a grant for a large sign at the entrance to Matthies Park and possibly some trail work around the park.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

None.

BUDGET

Next year's budget has passed and was distributed to the commissioners.

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OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

J. DeGennaro 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