

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JUNE 15, 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 7:12 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: S. Ruhl, D. Palange, A. Sirowich, B. Egan

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: M-E Fernandes, J. DeGennaro

OTHERS PRESENT: Susan Dowdell, Joe Roderigo

MINUTES

D. Palange made a motion to approve the May, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. S. Ruhl seconded the motion. All ayes from those who were present at the May meeting. B. Egan abstained from the vote.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Sue Dowdell noted that through discussion on the Laurel Ledge parent's page, there is interest in LEGO Robotics in town. She has investigated the program at the Danbury Library and she is thinking of offering a class to 4th & 5th graders, using 1 kit for every 2 children and starting with a small group. She is looking for an adult mentor to work with the Program Librarian and she is also seeking out ways to get children to the library after school. A. Sirowich noted that someone with a science or engineering background would be best suited to teach/mentor the program. The Library asked if the commission is willing to co-sponsor and provide some funding to purchase the initial LEGO Mindstorm kits through LEGO Education. Sue provided a quote for 5 kits at \$350.00 per kit, plus software license and shipping.

S. Ruhl called for a motion to allocate \$2,198.02 from the Recreational Programs line item for the purchase of kits for the Robotics program with the Beacon Falls Library. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.

J. Roderigo showed the commissioners a proposed diagram of Riverbend Park. The \$100,000 grant has been approved and plans are moving forward. If anyone on the Commission has input for the park, they are welcome to come to meetings, provide comments, suggestions, etc. The park will double in size and be left in a natural state. The park will be handicapped accessible spots with accessibility for fishing. The canopy will be raised and paths will be 6'8 feet wide to allow emergency access for vehicles. The park will have 2 gates. The committee is in the beginning stages and they will be meeting monthly on the 4th Monday of the month. Eventually J. Roderigo plans to contact DOT to try and establish an access point to connect the Greenway and other connections to the park are foreseeable in the future.

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D. Palange asked about the depth of the water near the park and J. Rodorigo noted that it varies from shallow to 6-7 feet.

S. Ruhl asked J. Rodorigo about the Powanski property and J. Rodorigo explained that the owner is open to selling his property. There are costs involved with developing and maintaining the property after the purchase and therefore, no progress has been made. D. Palange noted that the leagues could use the space, especially when soccer is being played at Pent Road and there are conflicts.

J. Rodorigo asked if Family Day was proceeding with the Cardboard Boat Race, Canoe/Kayak and Fireworks and S. Ruhl explained that all the events are planned for July 11th.

APPLICATIONS

S. Ruhl will sign an application for the RACBL picnic on June 27th at the Pent Road pavilion.

GRANTS

Final grant report is now due to K. Matthies Foundation.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

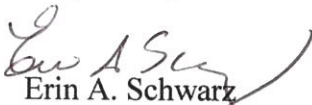
None at this time.

D. Palange noted that he needed to exit the meeting. S. Ruhl tabled the remainder of the agenda until the next meeting, when a quorum is available.

ADJOURNMENT

B. Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. A. Sirowich seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission