

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2015**

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

CALL TO ORDER

B.Egan called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:12 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: J. DeGennaro, D. Ferretti, M-E Fernandez, B. Egan, S. Ruhl (7:25 PM), D. Palange (7:25 PM)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Sirowich

OTHERS PRESENT: P. Hinman

MINUTES

B. Egan noted there are not enough members present who were at the August Regular Meeting to vote on the minutes. Approval of minutes tabled until the October, 2015 meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Pat Hinman of 387 Burton Road explained to the Commission that there have been complaints about horse manure on the pavement at Matthies Park. She is an equestrian who uses the park and her group is conscious of cleaning up after their horses. There are other equestrians who use the park, that are not as considerate. Pat asked the commission to consider installing signage at Matthies Park asking people to pick up after their horses as a reminder to them to be polite. These signs would be located by the parking area for people who use trailers to transport their horses and enter the park through the main entrance.

M.E. Fernandes noted that with the dispute over use of the easement currently taking place with Region 16, the equestrian community would like to remind people to clean up after their horses and to be considerate of others who use the park.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

- 1) Elaine Ferretti completed her Girl Scout Gold project, which is the kiosk at the park entrance, and it has been installed. A dedication ceremony took place on September 20th. The kiosk contains brochures with a history and map of the park. There is a photo of the bear recently cited at the park in the kiosk to make people aware of the wildlife there.
- 2) D. Ferretti is always looking for projects for the Boy Scouts to complete at Matthies Park or at the other parks in town.
- 3) The commission still needs to thank Bart Hogestyn for sandblasting and restoring the Matthies Park sign at the entrance.

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S. Ruhl and D. Palange entered the meeting (7:25 PM) and were versed on Pat Hinman's concerns about signs at Matthies.

4.) S. Ruhl completed that he would recommend 2 signs, one in the parking lot area and one where the 2 paths meet at the pump house. B. Egan will explore costs of the signs, so the commission can vote on them at the next Regular Meeting.

5.) D. Ferretti asked about the installation of security cameras at Matthies Park to deter vandalism of the covered bridge and other structures. M.E. Fernandes noted that in the past, there has always been a question of who will monitor the cameras. D. Palange stated that when the RACBL approached the First Selectman's office about purchasing cameras at Pent Road, the idea was shot down. D. Ferretti noted that there are different types of cameras such as game cameras, which are activated by movement. It would be interesting to hear our Police Department's opinion on the cameras.

B. PENT ROAD

- 1) Pent Road is being well used with RACBL Fall Ball underway. Prospect Soccer is using the fields every other Saturday and Flag Football is also practicing at Pent.
- 2) Field #5 is finished and there is a college aged group which has applied to use it.
- 3) The Cub Scouts of Pack 2010 are planning to use Field #3 for Movie Night this Friday evening.
- 4) Lights on Field #1 were fixed by the town, using Scruyver Tree Service.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

Nothing new to report on progress with the park as the committee has not met recently. B. Egan explained that the Town is waiting for the town attorney to finish their piece on the title searches for the project, before work can proceed.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

- 1) RACBL Fall Ball season will continue until the weekend of October 24 & 25.
- 2) Valley Fusion Softball has small numbers of players this fall.
- 3) The Beacon Falls Basketball League is getting ready for sign ups and to begin their season. The league would like to have the scoreboard at Laurel Ledge replaced.

E. PARK ACTIVITIES

- 1) J. DeGennaro reported that Zumba has been booked at Laurel Ledge after school on Wednesdays from 3:30 until 4:3 PM through the end of the school year in June.
- 2) J. DeGennaro is planning an American Red Cross Babysitting Class to be held at Woodland in November and she will provide details once they are finalized.
- 3) Also, J. DeGennaro will be running a Volleyball Clinic for middle school aged girls on Saturdays in October starting October 10 and ending the first Saturday in November. Details to follow.
- 4) The library will be running Lego Robotics classes after school at the library starting in September for 10-12 students- Grades 4 and up. We co-sponsored this class by helping them purchase the Robotics kits.

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NEW BUSINESS

- A. The commission is still considering sledding at Matthies or some type of winter event with skating, hot chocolate, etc.
- B. D. Palange will look into a Beacon Falls day at one of the local ski resorts, such as Mohawk.
- C. D. Palange noted that the leagues hope to open the Sugar Shak this fall. Right now, all of their equipment and access to the freezers is blocked by the bounce house and other items left over from the summer camp.
- D. S. Ruhl noted that he will be attending evening classes and will temporary allow B. Egan to act as Chairman until his classes are over in the spring.

CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

The commission received an application from Cub Scout Pack 2010 to host a movie night at Pent Road.

GRANTS

- 1) Final grant report is still due to K. Matthies Foundation.
- 2) The commission discussed applying for a grant for a nice wooden sign at Matthies Park entrance as part of the K. Matthies Foundation grant this year.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

B. Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission