

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2015**

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

CALL TO ORDER

B. Egan called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 7:02 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: B. Egan, D. Palange, J. DeGennaro, D. Ferretti

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Sirowich, M-E Fernandes, S.Ruhl

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Deegan, Steve Leeper, Joe Rodorigo (7:15 PM)

MINUTES

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

There was no regular monthly meeting in October 2015.

D. Palange made a motion to move Comments from the Public to the next item on the Agenda. J. Degennaro seconded. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Tom Deegan and Steve Leeper attended the meeting as representatives of the Beacon Falls Basketball League to touch base with the Commission and let them know that the league was up and running. T. Deegan explained that the league has 230 kids registered from age 7 through High School and there will be 23 teams playing this season. There are 6 travel programs running and they will be coordinating and working with Prospect travel programs. The league is co-ed from ages 7-10 and then it splits between boys and girls. S. Leeper explained that they would like to see additional numbers for the high school aged teams and hope to work with Oxford's league to expand the number of high school teams playing this season. B. Egan noted that we should check with insurance regarding the Oxford players. The league will receive their \$500 subsidy check from the Parks & Recreation budget line shortly. Tom Deegan noted that games will begin in December and that he and Steve are always available if there are any questions.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

B. Egan spoke with S. Ruhl and he is willing to remain as Chairman. **B. Egan nominated S. Ruhl as Chairman. J. DeGennaro seconded the motion. All ayes.** There were no other nominations.

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B. Egan stated he is willing to remain as Vice Chairman. **J. DeGennaro nominated B. Egan as Vice Chairman. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.** There were no other nominations.

D. Ferretti noted that he would like to take on a leadership role in the future, but he is still learning the ropes as the newest member. He would consider a position later on.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. The Public Works Department recently rented equipment to complete the cleaning of the settling ponds.
2. B. Egan has been in contact with NuAge Designs regarding signs for the equestrians regarding cleanup of horses. He was planning to order at least 2 signs: 1 for the parking lot and 1 for up farther on the paved trails.
3. The POW flag and American flag at Matthies Park need to be replaced. Funds are available under the Matthies Park line item for both the flags and the signs. D. Ferretti noted that the size of the flag is determined by the height of the flagpole.
4. D. Palange would still like to put on a winter event and asked what would be needed to get the pond plowed for ice skating and what would be needed to set up a hill for sledding. He was concerned about insurance, testing the ice thickness and setting up hay bales for safety during sledding. The ice needs to be 6 inches thick in 3 locations for skating. Skating signs are stored somewhere at the park.

B. PENT ROAD

1. The Baseball and Softball Leagues have closed down for the season, removed the banners and closed down batting cages and stored pitching machines for the winter.
2. D. Palange noted that the same light behind home plate on Field #1 is still out. The lights were replaced. The problem may be a ballast which needs to be replaced.
3. The Sugar Shak was open for most of the fall season.
4. D. Palange also asked about the cost of out of town travel leagues using the fields. The Commission will be reviewing those fees next month on the 2016 Facilities Application.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

J. Rodorigo reported on the \$100,000 grant to expand Riverbend Park and showed the commissioners a map with the parcels of land which will make up the expanded park. The plan is to continue the trail system, keeping the park in a natural state and extending it to Route 8. One piece of land is owned by DOT and the committee is working with DEEP on acquiring the deed. The town is working on clearing the title on a second piece of land on Marilyn Avenue.

The plan is for a 1500 foot footpath and walking trail with cutouts by the river for bench locations. There will be a slab built for Porto lets and handicapped access to the river. There will be a J – Hook built with boulders as a rock outcropping to encourage

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kayakers, canoes and fishermen. They hope to begin construction next spring and plan to finish the construction of the project in 6 months.

J. Roderigo has been meeting with lawyers on the title piece of the project. D. Ferretti would like to help with Scout projects for the park. The Riverbend Committee has set another meeting for next month before the Parks & Recreation meeting.

SPORTS LEAGUES

- A. Basketball Leagues will start playing in early December. Travel teams will start sooner.
- B. All other Leagues are finished for the winter.

D. PARK ACTIVITIES

- A. J. DeGennaro noted that Zumba for Kids is currently the only activity running, after school at Laurel Ledge and the instructor has a good following.
- B. B. Egan has begun booking a few concerts for June.
- C. J. DeGennaro has been in touch with Mike Magas who is the Girls High School and Long River Middle School swim coach, about expanding the swim programs in town.
- D. D. Palange may look into another ski day at one of the mountains.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. The 2016 Meeting Calendar was presented and J. DeGennaro made a motion to approve the dates. D.Ferretti seconded the motion. All ayes.**

CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

None at this time.

GRANTS

Nothing new on grants.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

None at this time.

BUDGET

D.Ferretti asked for a copy of the Parks & Recreation budget.

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OTHER BUSINESS

D.Palange asked about the stock fish for the Fishing Derby and who arranges to stock the pond. The trout do not last in the pond and he inquired about considering different species of fish to stock the pond for a longer period.

ADJOURNMENT

D.Palange made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. D.Ferretti seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission