

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

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

CALL TO ORDER

S. Ruhl called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 7:05 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: S. Ruhl, B. Egan, D. Palange, D. Ferretti

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Sirowich, M-E Fernandes, J. DeGennaro

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

MINUTES

B. Egan made a motion to approve the November, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. D. Ferretti seconded the motion. S. Ruhl abstained from the motion. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

B. Egan made a motion to elect S. Ruhl as Chairman of the Commission for the next year. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.

S. Ruhl nominated B. Egan to continue as Vice Chairman. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. B. Egan has ordered the new signs for the equestrians regarding cleanup of horses and the sign company will complete the installation towards the end of the month. He was looking for guidance on placement of the signs and will involve the press once they are installed, so that the public is aware.
2. The POW flag and American flag at Matthies Park still 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.
3. D. Ferretti noted that there is a need to finish the trail that goes around the pond and to also make smaller trails to access the pond for fishing. The cattails need to be cleared and the pond should be cleared of debris. Some of these projects may be something that the Scouts can accomplish.

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4. D. Palange noted again that it may be worth looking into stocking a different species of fish for the fishing derby. Trout do not survive and there are other options like perch, bass, rock bass or carp which may be more beneficial to the pond. There is a fish hatchery in Burlington which he may investigate.
5. D. Palange would still like to put together a Winter Carnival at Matthies if the weather cooperates.

B. PENT ROAD

1. With regard to the 2016 Facilities Application and Pent Road, S. Ruhl suggested that the commission close down rentals of the Upper Pavilion for safety reasons. The playground is out of date and dangerous and the bathrooms are in bad shape. The goal would be to eventually get rid of the playground equipment in this area, and to enclose the upper pavilion, so that it can be used as storage. They would like to discuss with the Public Works Foreman what it would take to complete that project. The volleyball pit up top could also be moved to the lower pavilion area by Field #1.
2. B. Egan noted that he also ordered a sign for the lower pavilion recognizing the Katharine Matthies Foundation, which will be installed when the equestrian signs are installed.
3. 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.
4. Discussion followed the storage of Parks & Recreation equipment at Pent Road, which has been an issue. An example is the Cub Scout movie night at Pent Road which was a disaster, because cords for the outdoor movie projector were missing and in disarray. The Commission needs to put together a better policy and procedure for borrowing/lending their equipment and for storing it.
5. Storage at Pent Road continues to be a problem for the leagues as well and D. Palange is working on some solutions.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

1. B. Egan noted that the plan to expand Riverbend Park by acquiring 3 more parcels of land from the DOT/DEEP and from a private owner was brought before the Board of Selectmen and is proceeding. They are working on clearing trees on the site. Title searches are being conducted and it looks as though the privately owned piece of property may be acquired in lieu of back taxes owed to the Town.
2. The State Archaeology Commission has inquired about historic significance for Indian tribes which may have used the property. The inquiry is currently preventing stump removal on the site.
3. D. Ferretti is interested in any Eagle Scout projects which may be available at Riverbend.

SPORTS LEAGUES

- A. Basketball Leagues are up and running.
- B. The 2016 Facilities Application fees will remain unchanged and this document will be ready next month for spring applications from the leagues.

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D. PARK ACTIVITIES

- A. Zumba for Kids is currently the only activity running and will resume in January.
- B. D. Palange is hoping for snow and ice, so that he can plan the Winter Carnival with skating, sled riding, snowman building contests and he would like to get local non-profits involved. D. Ferretti noted that the Scouts would be willing to sell hot chocolate or concessions.
- C. S. Ruhl noted that he would like to set up a Beacon Falls Day at one of the local ski areas: Woodbury Ski would offer a 30% discount for all Beacon Falls residents who ski that day or Sundown will provide discounts to a group of 15 or more.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. D. Ferretti asked who is responsible for the new park in town and S. Ruhl explained that the Conservation Commission is in charge of Lantern Ridge.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. The Commission received thank you notes from all of the students who participated in the first session of the Lego Mindstorms classes, which was co-sponsored with the library. Lego Robotics programs will continue at the library.
- 2. M.E. Fernandes sent a thank you note to the Commission for the get well fruit basket that she received. She is doing well.
- 3. The commission received a Holiday card from Little River Power.

APPLICATIONS

None at this time.

GRANTS

Nothing new on grants.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

- 1. The Commission received a proposal from the library for co-sponsoring several Flanders Nature Center programs. The library has proposed to run the programs, if the Commission can fund the costs of the Flanders teachers. Two of the programs: Maple Syrup and Insects cost \$5 each. One of the programs is a \$20 Birdhouse program where students pay \$10 for materials and \$10 would be funded by the commission. The maximum is 20 students for each class, so the total cost from the Recreation Programs line item is \$400 for all 3 programs. **B. Egan made a motion to provide funds to the library for the Flanders Nature Center programs totaling \$400. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.**

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2. Beth Bucciferro from Brighten Your View sent an invoice for \$159.00 for updates to the Parks & Recreation website for Programs. **B. Egan made a motion to pay the invoice from Brighten Your View. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.**
3. There was an invoice from Willow's Flowers for \$63.00 for the fruit basket for Mary- Ellen Fernandes. This will be paid out of the Office Supplies line item. **B. Egan made a motion to pay the invoice from Willow's Flowers. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.**
4. Erin Schwarz submitted an invoice for the September and November meetings for \$142.00. **B. Egan made a motion to pay the Clerk invoice. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.**

BUDGET

The Commission reviewed the current budget status. Fireworks deposit will need to be paid for soon and B. Egan noted that balance of Concerts line. D. Palange will request the Sports Subsidy for the Baseball League.

OTHER BUSINESS

D.Palange asked about who is currently running Beacon Falls Girls Softball League. Last spring they joined forces with Prospect Softball due to their small number of players and in order to field enough teams. This led to less usage of fields at Pent Road and more traveling to Prospect for practices and games.

ADJOURNMENT

D.Palange made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM. D.Ferretti seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission