

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
JANUARY 19, 2016**

**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, M-E Fernandes, J. DeGennaro

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Sirowich, D. Ferretti

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

**MINUTES**

**B. Egan made a motion to approve the December, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. D. Ferretti seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. MATTHIES PARK**

1. D. Palange would still like to put together a Winter Carnival at Matthies if the weather cooperates. He is looking into clearing a path of rocks and tree branches for sledding and lining the sides of the hill with hay bales. Ice skating does not look feasible this year due to the temperatures and there is a lot of debris on the ice. He will advertise if the snow arrives and sledding is a possibility.
2. M.E. Fernandes would like to see more trails cut at Matthies on the far side of the pond beyond the pump house by the viaduct.
3. S. Ruhl noted there is interest in creating a dog park at Matthies by the parking lot where the meadow is. There is liability with a dog park. The commission discussed what it would require to install, including signage and fencing and agreed to investigate ideas for moving the idea of a dog park forward.
4. B. Egan is still working on signage for Matthies Park regarding picking up after horses.

**B. PENT ROAD**

1. Nothing is currently taking place at Pent Road.
2. D. Palange needs to see what is happening with the Girls Softball League this year.

**C. RIVERBEND PARK**

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1. B. Egan noted that the Riverbend Park Committee met last night and plans are moving forward. They have been working with Mike Horbal and the town to acquire the 3 parcels of land – one privately owned and two owned by the State DOT and DEEP. Letters have been sent to the State on they have consulted with the Police Dept., Fire Dept., and Public Works as to what they would like to see at the park.
2. The State Archaeology Commission has advised that the Town does not need to spend funds for a study on the historic significance of the land.
3. The area is being cleaned up and tree work is being completed.
4. They are applying to the Army Corp. of Engineers regarding building a J-Hook in the river.
5. The Committee plans to invite the neighborhood residents to a meeting in April for their input and so far they are generally happy with the progress with the park. More signage is needed directing people to the park.

**SPORTS LEAGUES**

- A. Basketball Leagues are up and running.
- B. 2016 Facilities Applications have begun coming in for the spring leagues.

**D. PARK ACTIVITIES**

- A. Zumba for Kids is currently the only activity running for 5 week session in January and February.
- B. Family Swim Nights at Woodland’s pool have been scheduled to begin in February. We are waiting for details from Prospect Parks & Recreation.
- C. B. Egan has already scheduled 4 concerts in June, July and August. He is working on completing the schedule.
- D. The library has scheduled the Flanders Nature Center programs which the Commission agreed to fund.
- E. 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.
- F. S. Ruhl was contacted by a resident who is completing a study on frogs at Matthies Park through Yale Peabody Museum and she would like to teach a program to kids.
- G. S. Ruhl also was contacted by Play-Well Technologies for a LEGO Engineering Summer Camp for elementary and middle school level students. The program is 3 hours and \$130/week.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Former commissioner, Stan Osowiecki’s mother recently passed away. The commission agreed to send Stan a fruit basket with condolences.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

S. Ruhl has received some information on fireworks companies for the Family Day display this July. The commission will need to put down a deposit on the show shortly.

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**APPLICATIONS**

Applications are beginning to come in for spring use of Pent Road fields; Spring Sports Leagues, Ryan Matthew's Kickball Tournament and Travel Baseball teams.

**GRANTS**

Nothing new on grants.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

None at this time.

**BUDGET**

The Commission reviewed the current budget status.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. D. Palange is still interested in changing the type of fish which are stocked in Carrington Pond in April for the Fishing Derby. B. Egan noted that the event will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in April and the St. Michael's Mens Club will meet shortly to discuss.
- B. B. Egan made a motion to approve the 2016 Facilities Application with the correction of typos noted. J. DeGennaro seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**B. Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM. J. DeGennaro seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz  
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission