

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
FEBRUARY 16, 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 7:10 PM and then led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: S. Ruhl, D. Palange, M-E Fernandes, J. DeGennaro

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Sirowich, D. Ferretti, B. Egan

OTHERS PRESENT: Keith Bodnar, Mark Crowley Sr., Mark Crowley, Jr., David Bodnar

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

S. Ruhl welcomed the public to speak. Mark Crowley Jr. introduced himself as a Life Scout from Troop 138 who wishes to build a kiosk at Lantern Ride and blaze a trail about 1/3 mile long as his Eagle Scout project. S. Ruhl noted he thinks the kiosk is a good idea and should include some information on the background and history of the land.

Keith Bodnar introduced himself as a Life Scout from Troop 138 who wishes to complete an Eagle Scout project at Lantern Ridge by marking and clearing the existing trail. The Scouts showed the commission a map of the park and noted they would move rocks along the trail and make the trail nicer to walk on.

They inquired if there was money available to fund the projects. S. Ruhl explained that the Conservation Commission has jurisdiction over Lantern Ridge and monies would have to come from their budget. The Parks & Recreation Commission endorsed the projects and encouraged the Scouts to present their ideas to Conservation Commission. S. Ruhl asked their time frame and they noted they would like to begin this spring by mid-April and expect the trail work would take 2 weekends. S. Ruhl wished the boys good luck with their projects.

**MINUTES**

**J. DeGennaro made a motion to approve the January, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes, as presented. M-E Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. MATTHIES PARK**

1. D. Palange set up a path for sledding at Matthies Park, and used bales of hay to mark the path. He would encourage people to sled there if the weather allows. The entrance to the park was not plowed, as it is a low priority, and sledders would need

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better access. Ice skating is not possible this winter. Next winter, given there is snow, the Commission would like to hold a winter event.

2. Public Works has hired Schruyver's Tree Service to complete tree work at the park, taking down dead trees and broken limbs around the pavilion and playground.
3. Also, there was a Facilities application submitted last year for a July 16<sup>th</sup> wedding at the Matthies pavilion. The commission wanted to be sure that Public Works was ready for this wedding that weekend.

**B. PENT ROAD**

1. Registrations are coming in for spring use of Pent Road.
2. Nothing is happening at the park right now.

**C. RIVERBEND PARK**

Riverbend Park Committee is meeting regularly and has begun to make disbursements from the grant to pay the attorney, surveyor and title searches.

**SPORTS LEAGUES**

- A. 2016 Facilities Applications are up on the website.
- B. The Basketball League has about 2 weeks left in their regular season.
- C. Baseball League has about 90 kids signed up to date. Their sign-ups are complete but they are still accepting late registrations.
- D. Lori Ewen is taking over as President of Softball League, while Kelly Kean is still the Valley Fusion contact. The Softball League still needs to hold sign-ups.

**D. PARK ACTIVITIES**

- A. A. Sirowich still plans to run Summer Camp this summer.
- B. S. Ruhl met with Play-Well Technologies regarding a LEGO Engineering Summer Camp for elementary and middle school level students which will run for 1 week this summer. The program is 3 hours and \$130/week. The middle school students will meet in the morning from 9:00 AM until Noon and program features STEM Robotics, and the elementary school students will meet from 1:00 until 4:00 PM.
- C. Zumba for Kids is currently the only activity running for 5 week session which ends in February. Tracy Brody's next session will begin in March. She is booked at Laurel Ledge through June.
- D. Family Swim Nights at Woodland's pool will run from February to April.
- E. S. Ruhl has been in touch with Atlas Pyro about the Fireworks show on July 9<sup>th</sup>. We will have the same show as in past years.
- F. J. DeGennaro may try to set up a Babysitting Class through American Red Cross, which can be offered at a discounted price.
- G. J. DeGennaro will also look into Swim lessons again for this summer.

**NEW BUSINESS**

S. Ruhl noted there is some grass roots interest in creating a dog park at Matthies by the parking lot where the meadow is. There is liability with a dog park and the

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commission needs to get a feel for the legalities involved. He is looking into the differences between a designated dog area and a dog park and required fencing. S. Ruhl has spoken with First Selectman Chris Bielik on this issue and will continue to look into it.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None at this time.

**APPLICATIONS**

Applications are beginning to come in for spring use of Pent Road fields. They are being reviewed as they come in.

**GRANTS**

The Katharine Matthies Foundation grant is due May 1<sup>st</sup> and the commission began discussing ideas for the grant application at Matthies Park. They discussed a new sign at the park entrance, marking and clearing trails, adding short docks in the water for fishing access and picnic tables by the back of the pond near one of the wooden bridges.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

A bill was presented by the clerk, Erin Schwarz. **J. DeGennaro made a motion to approve the bill and pay Erin for clerk services. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**BUDGET**

Next year's budget will be due at the end of the month. S. Ruhl intends to review the Parks line items with Public Works foreman, Rob Pruzinsky.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**J. DeGennaro made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz  
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission