

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MARCH 21, 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 and then led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Sirowich

OTHERS PRESENT: Samantha Fair, Lori Ewen, Elise

**MINUTES**

**D. Palange made a motion to approve the February, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes, as presented. D. Ferretti seconded the motion. B. Egan abstained from this vote. All ayes.**

**J. DeGennaro made a motion to approve the March 9, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes, as presented. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**REELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Per the Town Ordinance, S. Ruhl cannot serve more than 2 years as Chairman of Parks & Recreation, so the Board needs to re-elect officers.

**S. Ruhl nominated B. Egan as Chairman. Mary Ellen Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes for B. Egan as Chairman.**

**B. Egan nominated S. Ruhl as Vice-Chairman. Mary-Ellen Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes for S. Ruhl as Vice-Chairman.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Members of the Baseball and Softball League recently held a meeting to come to an agreement regarding the Sugar Shack operations this season. D. Palange, now speaking as President of the RACBL, asked about a Tax ID# for the Sugar Shack and provided the number that they had on file. The number on file was not the Town of Beacon Falls Tax ID number. Samantha Fair of Burton Road, who will be working on the Sugar Shak Committee, is looking into obtaining a separate Tax ID number for the Sugar Shack. She is also making sure the Sugar Shack account signatures are set up properly with Liberty Bank.

The meeting between the Beacon Falls Softball League and RACBL was productive and the leagues are figuring the Sugar Shack situation out with an intended 50/50 split of the profits. The two parties did not get along in the past, and had disputes over the Sugar Shack and the

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MARCH 21, 2016**

batting cages, but they are meeting again this week and they are looking to come to an agreement. The Sugar Shack Committee has modified Jim Huk's original proposal and there are 2 members from RACBL and 2 members from Beacon Falls Softball who will serve as the Sugar Shack officers. S. Fair noted that they are coming up with solutions for other issues, such as inventory and security at the Shack and will put it all in writing.

B. Egan stated that he appreciated their efforts to work out an agreement between the leagues for the Sugar Shack operations. He asked for a copy of the final agreement, once it is completed, for the Commission's files.

With regard to the usage of the fields, members of the Softball League asked about scheduling. Lori Ewen noted that Valley Fusion currently has Field #2 for 3 nights per week, while the Softball League is limited to using the field 2 nights per week. The home leagues have priority over travel and out of town teams. Lori Ewen stated that she was not even aware that the league could utilize the batting cages. Beacon Falls Softball has priority usage over the fields over Valley Fusion. S. Ruhl wished to stress that Beacon Falls Softball has top priority for both the fields and the batting cages.

Applications from the college teams have not yet come in. Woodland High School has submitted their application and they use Field #5. With regard to scheduling of the Fields, Beacon Hose Co. also uses Field #2 later at night.

Lori Ewen stated that registrations are still coming in, but right now Beacon Falls Softball has 2 T-Ball teams, 2 Coach Pitch, 1 Minor, 1 Major, 1 Juniors for a total of 7 teams.

D. Palange noted that nets will be put up in the batting cages shortly and the Town will be putting up the top net. D. Palange also stated that due to the need to charter early in the season the Leagues need approximately \$2,500 in their accounts to carry over each season.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. MATTHIES PARK**

1. Tree work has been completed at Matthies. There was a big tree limb which was snapped off over one of the paths which is a hazard. B. Egan noted that in the budget the Matthies Park line should have monies earmarked for tree work each year because it is always needed. There are also vines growing on the trees leading up to the parking lot which need to be removed, so they do not damage the trees.
2. There was blue tape marking some of the trails by the old Revolutionary Road. D. Ferretti thought they were placed by a running group. S. Ruhl asked if some of those paths could be marked permanently and if Boy Scouts could blaze some of the trails.
3. D. Palange looked into docks for the pond, but metal or wood would be susceptible to rot. He asked about using crushed drainage stone to mark a path to the water near the back side of the pond. The stone could also be used as a small boat launch.
4. Discussion continued about opening up the back of the pond, clearing a path completely around the pond and improving existing trails.

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MARCH 21, 2016**

5. Fishing Rodeo is set for April 30<sup>th</sup>. Parks & Recreation provides the fish and the Men's Club provides food and prizes.
6. B. Egan says the equestrian signs are coming soon.

**B. PENT ROAD**

1. The town crew is currently prepping the fields and practices will start soon.
2. Public Works also has a quote for new loads of clay for Field #1 & #2 which is \$3,000 a load. The clay is orange clay sourced from New Jersey to match the clay currently on the fields. They have not been able to find a local source of this same clay which is less expensive.
3. The top pavilion is still closed and the bathrooms need to be shut down, as they are in very bad shape. S. Ruhl would suggest that this area serve as a designated dog area. It is fenced on 3 sides already and there is a water source there. He recommended that the existing playground equipment there be removed.

**C. RIVERBEND PARK**

1. B. Egan reported that the Riverbend Park Committee met tonight and the Town now owns the piece of property which was previously the Harmon property. They are still waiting for the State of Connecticut to finalize approval on the 2 pieces they own.
2. Tree work has been done and signs for the park are in the works. An engineer is working on the design for the J-Hook and once they have the 2 final pieces of land from the State of CT, they can finalize plans.
3. The Committee intends to meet with neighbors of the park and they are generally happy. There is still a problem with dumping of debris there.

**D. SPORTS LEAGUES**

1. The Basketball League has wrapped up their season.
2. There was a 3 on 3 basketball tournament recently to benefit a Prospect family battling cancer. S. Ruhl noted that the Commission can revisit making a donation to this cause.

**E. PARK ACTIVITIES**

1. S. Ruhl is planning on a Play-Well Technologies Lego camp this summer for 1 week, which will probably be the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July. It will be open to middle schoolers in the morning and elementary students after noon.
2. Zumba for Kids is running a 5 week session.
3. Family Swim Nights at Woodland's pool are running until April. There was an incident in the locker room recently which has been resolved with Chris Moffo.
4. J. DeGennaro has set up a Babysitting Class through American Red Cross, which will be offered at a discounted price. The class will be Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> and a flyer will come out soon.
5. B. Egan has booked the following concerts for this summer: June 4 – Angelo, June 18 – 60's Satisfaction, July 16 – FROGS, July 23 – Rich Bobinski Orchestra, July 30 – Kerry Boys, August 6 – 81 South Band, August 20 – Rubber City Blues Band. All concerts are 6:00 PM on St. Michael's Green.

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MARCH 21, 2016**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Sugar Shack was discussed under Comments from the Public.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The commission received an invitation from the Friends of the Library celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at 10:00 AM on April 16<sup>th</sup>. D. Palange noted that April 16<sup>th</sup> is Opening Day.

**APPLICATIONS**

Applications have come in from Prospect Little League (Softball), Beacon Falls Congregational Church for Easter Sunrise Service on 3/27, Sophie Zyla is hosting a program on 3/26 on lizards/amphibians, and Girl Scouts Elain Ferretti will use the Matthies pavilion on Sunday, May 22.

**GRANTS**

The Katharine Matthies Foundation grant is due May 1<sup>st</sup> and the commission will need to establish a firm idea for the grant application at Matthies Park.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

S. Ruhl presented the contract from Atlas Pyro for the firework celebration which is \$9,000 total. The deposit of \$4,100 is currently due and the balance is due before the show. **B. Egan made a motion to approve paying the deposit for the fireworks contract. D. Ferretti seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**BUDGET**

No discussion at this time.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**B. Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz  
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission