

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
AUGUST 15, 2016**

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

B. Egan called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 7:10 PM and then led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: D. Ferretti, B. Egan, M-E Fernandes, D. Taylor, D. Brooks (7:35 PM)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Sirowich, S. Ruhl

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Palange, L. Ewen

**MINUTES**

**M-E Fernandes made a motion to approve the June, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. D. Ferretti seconded the motion. D. Taylor abstained. All ayes.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

D. Palange and L. Ewen were present for the RACBL and Beacon Falls Girls' Softball League respectively. D. Palange stated that the leagues have agreed to share the shed on Field #4 for storage of their equipment and they will be obtaining a new lock for the shed.

D. Palange noted that the netting over the backstop on Field #1 is coming down, pipes are bending and some pipes have been snapped since April. The net is ripping behind home plate. Also, on Field #2 the same issue is beginning to happen. The nets need repair.

Sprinklers on Field #1 are not draining properly, mainly at the shortstop position. Because the fields were not edged or cut in the spring, this has added to the problem. Volunteers have tried to repair the issue, but the RACBL has addressed the problem with coaches/parents and they will no longer be touching the fields. If the fields are not in good condition, they will not play.

Unfortunately, equipment is missing from the storage near Field #1, which is not due to vandalism, but due to coaches or someone with access, taking equipment. A bar lock is needed and coaches are not returning keys, which is an issue that RACBL needs to address.

Fall Ball starts in a couple of weeks and D. Palange would like to see more maintenance being done to the fields. Other issues which have been discussed for security reasons: moving the light switch outside of the Sugar Shack so that all coaches will not need a key to that building to turn lights on/off and the locks on the batting cages need to be changed.

L. Ewen noted that the Softball League wanted to check the scoreboard on Field #2 because it was not working, but the booth on Field #2 was not accessible. The door was blocked to the booth. Softball League practices begin soon and the season will run from 9/10 until 10/23.

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B. Egan noted that the Collegiate Baseball team will also be playing weekend games at Pent Road and football will be practicing, but the in-town leagues have priority over them. L Ewen also mentioned that the league will be changing their name to Woodland Valley Softball.

B. Egan noted that the refrigerator at the Sugar Shack was repaired on Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.

D. Palange also noted that the RACBL would like to build stone dugouts on Field #4 and they are developing a 3-4 year plan for fundraising for this project. B. Egan encouraged him to bring a proposal before the board.

D. Brooks entered the meeting at 7:35 PM.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. MATTHIES PARK**

1. Masonry work was recently completed on the settling ponds at Matthies.
2. The Cardboard Boat Race went well. D. Ferretti would like more advertising next year and he would like to see the Mainstream kayak company bring more kayaks.

**B. PENT ROAD**

1. Fireworks went well on Family Day. The fireworks company set them off early to avoid a storm and they were difficult to see in the clouds and smoke towards the finale.
2. B. Egan noted that the refrigerator in the Sugar Shak has been fixed and he will address the maintenance issues raised by the Leagues with Rob Pruzinsky.
3. The Collegiate league has completed their application and paid for usage of Field #5 through the fall.

**C. RIVERBEND PARK**

1. B. Egan reported that the Riverbend Park Committee received contractor bids last week and the bids were higher than expected. The Committee went before the Board of Selectman to request an additional \$19,900 for the park from the General Fund.
2. Title searches and professional fees, plus the additional 3 pieces of property have doubled the size of the original park.
3. The Riverbend Committee will be awarding the bid soon. They were all from local companies: EJ Smith, Brian Swan and Mike Pratt.
4. The committee is meeting next week at the Senior Center. The river is low now and they would like to get work underway before the winter.

**D. SPORTS LEAGUES**

1. Both Baseball and Softball Leagues will hold fall seasons starting soon.
2. Prospect Soccer usually uses Pent Road in the fall and the Jr. Hawks have requested practice time as well

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**E. PARK ACTIVITIES**

1. Summer Recreation Camp hosted 142 children this summer and went well. J. DeGennaro ran successful swimming lessons and volleyball clinic.
2. B. Egan reported that the concerts have not gone well mainly due to the weather. The last 4 concerts were rained out and other concerts have not been well attended. The Big Beat concert was rescheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup>, which is a Wednesday night
3. The Beacon Falls Public Library is interested in co-sponsoring several programs through Flanders Nature Center for elementary aged students throughout the school year. The library would host the programs and transport the children. Program Librarian, Amy Enquist, has chosen 6 programs – 5 programs are \$100.00 each and all nature related. The final program is Wreath Making and there is a \$10 materials fee which students would pay, while Parks & Recreation would finance the remaining \$200 for the teacher. **D. Ferretti made a motion to provide the library \$700 from Recreations Programs line item to co-sponsor programs from the Flanders Nature Center. M-E Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes.**
4. The Library has another proposal for the commission to co-sponsor and help fund their Readers Theatre group. Details will follow.

**NEW BUSINESS**

D. Brooks noted that she joined the commission because she would like to discuss new ideas such as what can be done at Tobey's Pond, the possibility of a dog park, and events such as a food truck festival or Connecticut Free Shakespeare in the parks. B. Egan encouraged her to bring ideas before the commission.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None at this time.

**APPLICATIONS**

B. Egan has been processing applications at Pent Road:

- Collegiate Baseball League games
- Jr. Hawks Midget Football practices
- Pavilion rentals for birthday parties
- Cub Scouts at Matthies Park pavilion

**GRANTS**

Connecticut Community Foundation event grants are due October 1<sup>st</sup>. If anyone has ideas for an event, the commission can apply for a grant.

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**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

There was one bill from D. Ferretti for a reimbursement of expenses for the oars which were the prizes for the Cardboard Boat Race for \$34.48. **M-E Fernandes made a motion to pay this bill. D. Taylor seconded the motion. D. Ferretti abstained. All ayes.**

**BUDGET**

Nothing at this time.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**M.E. Fernandes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. D. Ferretti seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz  
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission