

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 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 7:02 PM and then led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: D. Ferretti, B. Egan, S. Ruhl, M.E Fernandes, D. Brooks, D. Taylor

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Sirowich

OTHERS PRESENT: No public present.

MINUTES

M.E. Fernandes made a motion to approve the October, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. S. Ruhl seconded the motion. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public present.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

S. Ruhl nominated B. Egan to serve as Chairman for the next year. This would be B. Egan's second year as Chair. M. E. Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes.

M.E. Fernandes nominated S. Ruhl to serve as Vice Chairman for the next year. This would be S. Ruhl's second year as Vice-Chair. D. Ferretti seconded the motion. All ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. Masonry work has been completed at the settling ponds at Matthies.
2. There has also been tree work completed which has cleaned up a lot.
3. M.E. Fernandes would still like to bring in volunteers to clean up trails in Matthies and this possibility is still being reviewed with B. Egan and the First Selectman. There were trees up by Route 42 blocking the trails. The commission would like to get someone in to get the work done instead of allowing it to slide down the list of priorities.

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B. PENT ROAD

1. B. Egan/S. Ruhl had spoken with Dave Sylvestry who is interested in using Fields 2 & 3 for a travel softball league. He plans to submit an application and is aware that availability is limited and in town leagues gets priority.
2. B. Egan has also spoken with RACBL President, Derek Palange about the infield grass on Field 1. The infield was not cut last spring which led to flooding and puddles on the field. Efforts to repair the puddles compounded the problem. Public Works is aware of this issue and it will be fixed in the spring.
3. B. Egan received another question about permitted use of the walking trail in January. He noted that the walking trail is not a big priority for snow removal during the winter, and therefore it is cleared last, but if it is clear it can be used year round.
4. D. Ferretti was told that the town's Safety Committee is now in charge of reviewing the situation with cameras at Pent Road. He will submit pricing on the cameras when a bid is put together and the project is in the budget.
5. B. Egan received a complaint about black mold on the tennis courts. Court maintenance will take place in the spring when the mold will be cleaned and new nets will be purchased.
6. We are also looking at changing sanitation facility providers in the spring based on pricing and the service we are currently getting from Chatfield Power.
7. There have been requests to move the light switch box from inside the door of the Sugar Shack to the outside to allow more security inside the Sugar Shack. B. Egan will address this request with Public Works, but until there are cameras having the light switch outside the door is still a security issue.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

1. The Riverbend Park Committee met across the hall tonight. The park is very near completion with signage and lights as the final pieces. EJ Smith has completed their work and the J-Hook is in the river.
2. There is a beaver problem there with beavers removing trees and the committee is looking at solutions like a trapper or fencing on some of the trees.
3. There will be a Grand opening in the spring prior to fishing season and the river has been stocked nearly. The total cost of the park was \$10-\$11,000 over the \$100,000 original grant budget.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

1. Basketball is up and running. The town's new insurance company did not approve an insurance certificate for the Beacon Falls Basketball League, so the league needed to obtain their own insurance, which was an added, unanticipated expense for them. The league is not run or controlled by the commission, financially or otherwise, and therefore, the town's insurer did not approve coverage.
2. All sports subsidies have gone out to all of the leagues.

E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. Zumba for Kids on Wednesdays first 5 week session brought in 48 kids which is a good turnout.

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2. The commission agreed to fund the script for the Readers Theatre Drama production with the Library and there are 29 students participating in the play, which is scheduled for January 6th at Laurel Ledge gym.
3. B. Egan has begun booking concerts for the summer.
4. The library has also put together the Flanders Nature Center programs which we helped to fund and the latest Library group may be a Chess Club, which the commission may be able to help.
5. S. Ruhl and D. Ferretti agreed to work together again to plan Family Day: Cardboard Boat Race/Canoe & Kayak event, on the same day as the Fireworks display. The Fireworks contract needs to be booked soon.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Facility Use Application – B. Egan passed around a revised version of the 2016 Facility Use Application. He noted the following changes:
- a.** The Fire Dept. should receive a copy of the applications as well, so we are adding a check box for them.
 - b.** Emphasis in red should be placed on the need for \$1,000,000 insurance.
 - c.** They also decided to add language stating the application should be submitted at least 14 days prior to the event.
 - d.** D. Brooks asked if the “No remote controlled vehicles” could be removed from the application or changed to “No remote airborne vehicles or drones”.
- B.** A revised version of the application will be presented at the December meeting. The commission hopes to finalize the new 2017 application next month. The revisions will then be reviewed by our insurance company. D. Ferretti will look into converting the finalized application into a fillable PDF form so people can complete it online.

CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

None at this time.

GRANTS

The commission should begin thinking about ideas for a Katharine Matthies grant which has a deadline in April-May. Projects should be in the \$5,000-\$15,000 range. Several ideas were discussed but a determination should be made by February or March, so the application can be submitted.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

None.

BUDGET

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Nothing at this time. Budget work will begin after the new year. If the commission wants to see changes to the Upper Pavilion at Pent Road, they need to come up with a plan and a budget for the project.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. D. Brooks is very interested in planning a Naturopathic Holistic Wellness event in town at Pent Road in the spring. The commission discussed ideas such as a 5k race and the types of vendors/speakers who would participate. They looked at June 24th as a possible date for an all-day event.
- B. B. Egan noted that at the next meeting the commission needs to approve the 2017 calendar of meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

M.E. Fernandes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. S. Ruhl seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission