

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 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 7:08 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 November, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. D. Ferretti seconded the motion. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In November, B. Egan was nominated for Chairman and S. Ruhl was nominated as Vice-Chairman. **M.E. Fernandes made a motion to elect B. Egan as Chair and S. Ruhl as Vice Chair, per the nomination. D. Taylor seconded the motion. No discussion. All ayes.** B. Egan thanked the commission for the vote of confidence, noting the collective sigh of relief.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. There is not too much activity at the park this time of year. The park is locked today due to slippery conditions in the parking lot from the recent storm.
2. B. Egan is still waiting for a final response from the town on allowing volunteers to work in the park to clear trails.
3. S. Ruhl attended the most recent Land Use Committee meeting and raised the idea of a 2nd entrance point to the park. The entrance would be at the top of Rimmon Hill Road by the McGeever farm. There is a town-owned access point at this location and the Land Use Committee was receptive to a paved lot providing better access to the park at the back of the pond.

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B. PENT ROAD

1. B. Egan noted that there has been more vandalism at Pent Road with a car entering the park and driving around on Field #5. There was also a break-in by the scorer's shack on Field #2.
2. The commissioners discussed security at the park and what could prevent vehicle access to the fields, such as a gate or fencing around the back of Field #5. They discussed formally closing the park at 9:30 PM, but were unsure who could be responsible for locking a gate and closing the premises and opening up in the mornings on weekends.
3. M.E. Fernandes spoke about the need for cameras at the park and signage which states that cameras are in use. D. Ferretti noted that the cost of cameras can vary greatly depending on the quality of cameras and the type of system being used. D. Ferretti was waiting to hear from the Town Safety Committee on the issue. M.E. Fernandes asked if cameras would qualify for Katharine Matthies Grant funds as a potential project. B. Egan offered to discuss cameras further with First Selectman Bielik.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

1. The Riverbend Park Committee met across the hall tonight. The park is substantially complete and the committee is waiting for Eversource to install electric lines so the lighting can be completed.
2. Beavers keep removing trees, so the committee may need to purchase some trees this spring.
3. There will be a formal opening in the spring close to opening day of fishing season.
4. S. Ruhl asked about the proposed \$3.6M Streetscape project which would extend the streetscape and its connection to Riverbend. B. Egan explained that there is provision for access to Riverbend Park with an access point. S. Ruhl was wondering if the entire project would eventually be maintained by town street and park crew. That stretch of road is on State property so the State DOT would be involved.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

1. Basketball is up and running for winter.

E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. S. Dowdell sent an email to the commission about projects which Parks & Recreation has helped to fund.
 - a. The theatre program is performing their play at Woodland on Friday, January 6th at 6:30 PM. There is a program book and Parks & Recreation will have a full page ad as sponsor, so B. Egan asked for suggestions of what to put in the ad.
 - b. The library continues to use the Robotics kits which were purchased last year, offering multiple LEGO Robotics classes.
 - c. The library is now planning a Chess Club as an after school group and they are looking for adults and teens to help teach and facilitate the group. S. Ruhl noted that the Commission could provide funds for chess sets.

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2. S. Ruhl is on the new Library Media Center Committee studying options for the property on Wolfe Avenue. The committee is reaching out to all boards asking what they would like to see in this new building. Parks and Recreation would have space in this facility. M.E. Fernandes is an alternate on the committee and S. Ruhl encouraged the group to come up with ideas and see where the project goes.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. B. Egan noted that the 2017 Parks & Recreation Meeting calendar needed to be added to the agenda and reviewed. **S. Ruhl made a motion to add the proposed calendar to the agenda. D. Brooks seconded the motion.** B. Egan explained that the 2017 meetings are all on the 3rd Monday of the month in the Town Assembly Room with the exception of January and February which fall on holidays. The January and February meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of those months in the Board of Selectmen's conference room across the hall. **All ayes.**
- B. Facility Use Application – The latest version of the 2017 Facilities application was circulated and no one had additional changes. The commission wishes to run the application by CIRMA before final approval in January.

CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

None at this time.

GRANTS

D.Brooks has inquired about a CCF sponsorship grant for the Holistic Wellness day that she is planning in June.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

There are two bills for approval. Erin Schwarz submitted a bill for 3 meetings – September through November for a total of \$173.00. **D. Brooks made a motion to pay this bill. M.E. Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes.**

M.E. Fernandes noted that other clerks in town are paid \$18.00 per hour for clerical work and proposed raising the hourly rate for the Parks & Recreation clerk to \$18.00 per hour effective immediately. **M. E. Fernandes made a motion to pay the clerk \$18.00 per hour for clerical work. D. Taylor seconded the motion. All ayes.**

B.Egan noted the need to revise the prior motion. He amended the clerk's bill to reflect \$177.00 (\$18.00 per hour for clerical work). **M.E. Fernandes made a motion to pay the \$177.00 invoice. D. Taylor seconded the motion. All ayes.**

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There is a bill for \$68.00 for Parks & Recreation letterhead from W.B. Mason. The letterhead was received and is being stored in the file cabinets in the Assembly Room for use. **D. Brooks made a motion to approve the \$68.00 invoice. D. Ferretti seconded the motion. All ayes.**

BUDGET

Budget discussions will begin in the new year. Riverbend Park may require increases to the Sanitation Facilities budget and Electricity for the Parks. Grounds Maintenance may also need an increase for next year.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. D. Brooks is moving forward with a Holistic Wellness festival in town at Pent Road in the spring on Saturday, June 24th. She has presenters who are interested in the event and took names of other people to approach as participants, such as Zumba, Beacon Falls Yoga and CrossFit.
- B. S. Ruhl provided her with a contact who may be interested in helping to plan a 5k to go along with the event. D.Brooks would like to involve someone who would handle the entire 5k, so she can focus on other events of the day. D. Brooks noted that she is interested in informative topics like preventing Lyme disease. She will need to look into advertising options and develop a budget for the event.

ADJOURNMENT

D. Brooks made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 PM. M.E. Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission