

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
APRIL 14, 2017**

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

CALL TO ORDER

B. Egan called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 7:14 PM and then led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: B. Egan, S. Ruhl, D. Ferretti, A. Sirowich, M.E. Fernandes (7:16 PM)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: D. Brooks, D. Taylor

OTHERS PRESENT: Library Director Susan Dowdell, Anna Canas, Maggie Norton, Emma Wood

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Anna Canas, Maggie Norton and Emma Wood from the Teen Advisory Group at the Library presented their idea for a “Little Free Library” which is basically a small wooden box that holds 5--15 books placed in a park or other location, which serve a small lending library. People can borrow a book or add a book to the box as they wish. They want to place the box at the Pent Road Recreation complex near the Sugar Shack. The group is seeking permission to place the box at the park. They have donations for books for the “Little Free Library” and a volunteer to build the box. The Friends of the Library will match donations that they receive at the library’s June Book Fair. They plan to stock the box with teen and children’s books from May until September. They thanked the board for their consideration.

The commissioners liked the idea. A. Sirowich was familiar with the box that is at Fulton Park in Waterbury. Commissioners were concerned about locating the box too close to the Sugar Shack, but they were confident that they can find a location down at Pent Road. **A. Sirowich made a motion to approve the Little Free Library. D. Ferretti seconded the motions. All ayes.** The commission thanked the girls and wished them luck.

Sue Dowdell provided the commission with an update on the library projects that Parks & Recreation has been involved with. The Robotics group continues to meet and there are 12 kids working towards competing in their first Lego league this November. The library recently held a Give Local campaign which will help to fund the \$250.00 registration for Lego League and buy mission model kits. The chess club met for several weeks and has wrapped up. A volunteer from Chatfield Farms helped the club. Flanders Nature Center programs continue to run and the Youth Theatre group is holding workshops this spring with about 30 kids attending.

S. Ruhl also noted that the Media Center Committee updates will be added to the regular Parks & Recreation agenda.

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
APRIL 14, 2017**

MINUTES

D. Ferretti made a motion to approve the March, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. S. Ruhl seconded the motion. B. Egan abstained because he had not yet read the minutes. All ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

There is nothing to report at the park. It is quiet at this time. Public Works will be having some painting done at the garage at Matthies.

B. PENT ROAD

1. B. Egan noted that the Sugar Shack is getting a new roof and Public Works will also be arranging to paint the trim on the buildings at Pent Road.
2. Public Works is also working on getting electricity to the lower pavilion and they will be digging a trench themselves from the garage to the pavilion. Chief Electric will do the electrical work.
3. RACBL opening day is 4/22 and the Girls Softball League will start their season on 4/30.
4. There is a 5k at the park on May 6th which conflicts with a Softball tournament down there. The Softball tournament application came in before the 5k application was submitted and the commission was not informed about the 5k until after the softball had been approved. Parking may be an issue, but both parties are aware of the conflict.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

1. D. Ferretti noted that the dedication of the park went well with about 50 people in attendance. The park is being well utilized by fishermen. There is clean up needed because there is a line of trash by the river.
2. The Riverbend committee is still meeting, and finalizing some of the open issues, such as the conveyance from the State DOT for the property the State provided for the park. The State wants \$1,000 fee for the 2 pieces of property.
3. The American Legion is interested in adopting the park. Quad tracks have been seen on the walking trail which may be an issue if it continues.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

1. RACBL is practicing and the high school leagues are playing at Pent Road.
2. Applications from the leagues have been processed.

E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. **HOLISTIC WELLNESS EVENT:** D. Brooks was not in attendance to discuss the Holistic Wellness Event.

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
APRIL 14, 2017**

2. D. Ferretti asked about the status of the inflatable movie screen as he would like to sort it out and get it working for a resident that is asking. S. Ruhl is not sure that the projector is working and the speakers and electronics are just a tangle of wires.
3. B. Egan reported that the annual fishing derby is scheduled for April 29th. It will be from 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM at Matthies Park for children 15 and under. St. Michaels Men's Club will provide the food. The fish have been ordered.
4. Zumba for Kids is conducting another 5 week session.
5. Fireworks, Canoe/Kayak, and Cardboard Boat race will be July 8th. S. Ruhl reported that Atlas Fireworks is booked for the Family Day Fireworks event and he will be in touch with Steve Tilki for entertainment and Mainstream Canoe. A. Sirowich will book the buses for the event.
6. B. Egan has booked all the concerts. All concerts will be at 6:00 PM on St. Michael's Green. He has booked: The Big Beat, 81 South Band, Ken Morr Band, Angelo, Wasting Bullets, Rich Bobinski Orchestra, The Kerry Boys, Bucket and the Totally Unrehearsed Band.
7. A. Sirowich plans to run Summer Recreation camp from July 10 – August 11th.
8. S. Ruhl is planning on running Play-Well Technologies Lego camp again this summer. Play-Well would like to have an indoor location booked this year, so he will look into Woodland as an option.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

APPLICATIONS

B. Egan has received the following applications for review and he has processed them:

- Cub Scouts – planning a sleepover at Matthies Park at the beginning of June. Approved pending insurance form.
- United Day School is having a field day at Pent Road in mid-summer.
- Beacon Hose Co. Softball Team application to play at Pent Road

GRANTS

A firm idea is needed for the Katharine Matthies Foundation grant which is due May 1st.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

None at this time.

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
APRIL 14, 2017**

BUDGET

B. Egan attended the Board of Finance budget workshop on March 30th and spent a few minutes reviewing items with the Board of Finance. The overall request was for a \$1950 increase in the budget for increases in the Summer Seasonal Help line due to increase in minimum wage, an increase in concerts due to the higher costs each year.

OTHER BUSINESS

B. Egan noted that an item for the town Safety committee and Public Works is the electric pole in the middle of the road leading to Pent Road. The pole was supposed to be moved when the road was widened and Eversource has not moved it yet. This is now the busy season at Pent Road and the pole in the middle of the road is a hazard.

ADJOURNMENT

D. Ferretti made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM. A. Sirowich seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission