

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MAY 15, 2017**

**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. Taylor, A. Sirowich, M.E. Fernandes

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: D. Brooks, B. Egan, D. Ferretti

OTHERS PRESENT: Derek Palange

**MINUTES**

- A. Sirowich made a motion to approve the April, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. M.E. Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Derek Palange spoke representing the RACBL and asked when the town will begin to complete the repairs that are needed on Field #1 and Field #4. The baseball season is well underway and the problem with flooding at shortstop has not been addressed, despite being discussed repeatedly at meetings and documented in Parks & Recreation meeting minutes.

Derek has spoken with Steve Moffat who is in charge of the fields at Pent Road and the fields are not being done. There have been water drainage issues in front of the dugouts on Field #1 and on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> baseline and the umpires will not allow play for safety reasons.

Mary Ellen Fernandes offered to make a list of Derek's issues at Pent Road and the list is attached. Derek had photos to show the commissioners of the status of the fields and asked if he could have a meeting with the Public Works Foreman, Rob Pruzinsky, to discuss the status of the fields. Derek included repairs to the home plate area and pitcher's mound on Field #4 which need to be filled in. The top canopy of the batting cages was not completed by the Town, as their part of the batting cage maintenance. Opening Day the fields were not raked or prepped and Derek noted that regular maintenance is not being done. Field #4 has not been edged in 3 years and water sits on the field causing drainage problems.

Derek noted that Field #2 has many of the same issues and softball has the same complaints. Derek also showed a photo of the large playground where one of the climbing obstacles is rusted out. Derek noted that he is available anytime to meet and discuss the maintenance of the fields.

The commissioners also discussed maintenance needed at Matthies Park with Cub Scouts using the field for camping in early June; the grass needs to be cut there.

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MAY 15, 2017**

S. Ruhl noted that for the Softball tournament which was held on May 6<sup>th</sup> at Pent Road the Softball League coaches used too much Speedy-Dry to quickly dry out the fields and the overuse of the product will ruin the fields.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. MATTHIES PARK**

1. Fishing Derby took place at Matthies Park and the pond was stocked in late April.
2. Some painting of Matthies buildings has been scheduled.

**2. PENT ROAD**

1. The 5k on May 6<sup>th</sup> was a big success.
2. The maintenance issues at Pent Road will be brought to the Public Works foreman this week.

**3. RIVERBEND PARK**

1. There are some rotting trees at Riverbend which were recently cut down and removed.
2. The American Legion still want to be involved with adopting the park.

**4. SPORTS LEAGUES**

1. RACBL and Girls Softball Leagues are both well underway and we have heard from the RACBL League President.
2. There has been a lot of rain and rainouts/cancellations thus far.

**5. PARK ACTIVITIES**

1. **HOLISTIC WELLNESS EVENT:** This event has been postponed indefinitely until D. Brooks is available to spend time chairing the event.
2. Zumba for Kids is conducting another 5 week session.
3. Fireworks, Canoe/Kayak, and Cardboard Boat race will be July 8<sup>th</sup>. S. Ruhl reported that Atlas Fireworks is booked for the Family Day Fireworks event and he has booked Steve Tilki for entertainment and Mainstream Canoe. A. Sirowich will book the buses for the event. We need to book 4 buses from 6:00 – 10:00 PM through All Star.
4. 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.
5. A. Sirowich plans to run Summer Recreation camp from July 10 – August 11<sup>th</sup>. S. Ruhl has received requests for extended hours. The seasonal staff is part of the Town budget and not part of the parent's fees for the camp. Parent payment pays for the crafts and inflatables. Parent fees will not cover the staff cost. It is a large expense.
6. 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. We are awaiting a flyer from Play-Well finalizing the event.

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MAY 15, 2017**

**NEW BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**APPLICATIONS**

B. Egan has been processing the applications regularly.

**GRANTS**

Riverbend Park subcommittee came in with an idea for grills, picnic tables and more trees at Riverbend, so we applied for a \$6,800 Katharine Matthies grant to purchase these items.

The commissioners briefly discussed replacing the large older playground at Pent Road with a grant, as a result of seeing the rusted older piece which was in Derek's photo. The pea stone there is also out of code. The large playground is a \$50,000+ expense.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

None at this time.

**BUDGET**

The budget will be voted on towards the end of the month. At this point, seasonal staff and concerts have increased slightly. Recreation program has been cut and the 2018 Independence Day Celebration would be paid for out of the Special Activities account, not the town budget.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**M.E. Fernandes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM. D. Taylor seconded the motion. All ayes.**

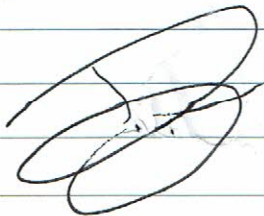
Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz  
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission

5/15/17 Park & Rec

- ① edge BACK of field 1
- ② shortstop field between - water drainage issue
- ③ DUGOUTS Field water DRAINAGE ISSUE - UMPIRES will NOT ALLOW PLAY
- ④ Field 4 - Home plate area - PITCHERS MOUND UNDER WATER - DRAINAGE ISSUE
- ⑤ BASKING cage CANOPY NOT DONE BY TOWN
- ⑥ OPENING DRY HAD TO BE done BY parents
- ⑦ reg. maintenance NOT BEING done
- ⑧ Field 4 NOT edged in 9 years - CAUSING DRAINING ISSUES
- ⑨ Field 2 not edged - DRAINAGE ISSUES
- ⑩ Green swingset in need of REPAIR OR DISMANTLE end metal chain ladder.

Derek Brown



5-15-17

John Stahl



5-15-17

(Anna) Greetings Board of Recreation, we are the Teen Advisory Committee of the Beacon Falls Public Library. My name is Anna Canas and these are the other members of the committee Maggie Norton and Emma Wood. We are here today to discuss an idea that we have and we are seeking your permission.

(Maggie) We have come up with the idea to start a Lending Library to promote reading. A lending library is basically a box on a stand. It does not have to be big, but big enough to hold 10 or more books. They are popular across the country, and there's even one in Waterbury. We have already received a donation of money to have the library registered as one, so people may come and use it, and we already have a volunteer to build the lending library with the required materials. Which means there is no cost at all to build it.

(Emma) There are only a few rules for the lending library. One is that in order to take a book you must leave a book in its place. The books can be teen novels, and children's books. If no one is really placing books as they take out books we will be happy to replace those books, as well as take some out. The books can not be inappropriate, like adult novels. Though they can be used books, they must not be books that are damaged . Missing pages or large stains are not acceptable.

(Anna) We are asking your permission to place this lending library near the snack shack down at the recreational center. We will set it up on a table that has already been provided. we would like to store it in the closet where the soccer equipment is stored during the winter months. We plan that the lending library would stay out during summer and spring. We were thinking of bringing it out May 14-September 17. Prospect Soccer has volunteered to store it in the soccer storage, but we would like to hear your thoughts on that .

(Maggie) Now, one of the questions you may ask is, what about vandalism? We are well aware that there is more vandalism at the recreational center now and no one wants inappropriate content on something that children and teens are going to be using. To try to fix this problem, we plan to make our box small. A small object has less chances of being vandalized than a playground or a tall structure as the person doing the vandalizing wants the vandalism to be seen. If it does so happen to be vandalized, we will personally fix the problem.

(Emma) Thank you for offering your time and consideration. Please consider that this lending library is a great way to encourage children and teens to read and explore their imaginations. Once again, thank you for your time.

