

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
JUNE 19, 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 7:15 PM and then led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: B. Egan, D. Taylor, A. Sirowich, M.E. Fernandes, D. Ferretti (7:20 PM)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: D. Brooks, S. Ruhl

OTHERS PRESENT: None

**MINUTES**

**M.E. Fernandes made a motion to approve the May, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. D. Taylor seconded the motion. B. Egan abstained from the vote. All ayes.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No public was present

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. MATTHIES PARK**

1. M.E. Fernandes noted that the signs which were posted about cleaning up after your horses have been twisted and mangled. They need to be replaced.
2. Public Works has scheduled maintenance to the settling ponds and plans to have some of the buildings at Matthies painted.
3. When the pavilion is rented out, the gate needs to be opened for the people hosting the event. B. Egan is working on how that can be accomplished.

**2. PENT ROAD**

1. D. Palange of the RACBL met with B. Egan, Public Works Foreman, Rob Pruzinsky and Steve Moffat to discuss maintenance of the fields at Pent Road. The clay needed for the fields was coming in and would be applied as soon as it is delivered.
2. To complete the edging, the fields need to be shut down, so that work will be done in August.
3. There was an issue in May after a rainy Friday when Valley Fusion used excessive amounts of Speedy-Dry on Field #3 in order to dry it out. The volunteers/coaches ended up pushing field materials into the outfields and cause the lip to get worse. The leagues have been instructed not to do this type of work on the fields.
4. Other issues with the fields include ATV use at Pent Road, which causes problems with tracks on the field. D. Palange knows how the fields should be raked and will instruct his coaches about maintenance. If the fields are wet, then play should be

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cancelled rather than coaches trying to correct issues and causing long term damage which now must be repaired. Field 1 will be fixed as soon as possible.

5. The regular season has ended and RACBL is now playing All-Stars. Valley Fusion will also be playing through the summer.

**3. RIVERBEND PARK**

1. There are two companies interested in an Adopt a Park program for Riverbend – EJ Smith and Gabe’s. The American Legion would like to put up a plaque at the park. B. Egan researched the State’s criteria for adopting the park. The town would need a Hold Harmless agreement for anyone working at the park.
2. B. Egan believes we should begin with the language of the State’s Adopt a Park agreement and move from there. B. Egan will meet with Chris Bielik to try and get the process moving soon, so work can begin. **A. Sirowich made a motion to begin the Adopt a Park program. M.E. Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes.**
3. Feedback from the neighbors is that they are happy with the park. There are tracks on path which is a motorized wheelchair which has been using the park, which the commission is happy to see.
4. There are still issues with invasive plants such as knotweed which is difficult to get rid of. Several corrections and additions needs to be made on the signage to the park.

**4. SPORTS LEAGUES**

RACBL and Girls Softball Leagues regular seasons are over. All Stars will continue into the summer months.

**5. PARK ACTIVITIES**

1. Summer Recreation Camp registrations are pouring in and A. Sirowich is set with her staff and will begin purchasing crafts and materials for camp.
2. D. Ferretti advised B. Egan that there are 3 entries so far for the Cardboard Boat Race and the trophy paddles are at Liberty Screening, so they will be all set.
3. The WRHS Class of 2018 asked if they could sell T-shirts at the Fireworks event, but they were still determining if they could organize the sale in time.
4. Neon t-shirts have been ordered for the commissioners and the summer camp staff for the Fireworks parking duty and to identify them.
5. B. Egan reported that the first 2 concerts have taken place with about 40 people attending The Big Beat and 75 people attending 81 South Band. Attendance should increase as the summer progresses.
6. S. Ruhl is planning on running Play-Well Technologies Lego camp again this summer at WRHS. Jessica Degennaro will run her Volleyball Camp in August and she has arranged a week of swim lessons at the end of June.
7. Community Media Center – Nothing to report at this time.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**APPLICATIONS**

B. Egan has been processing the applications regularly. There is a wedding at Matthies on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The Suzie Foundation kickball tournament will take place September 16 & 17. The RACBL picnic is scheduled for June. WRHS has submitted their application for JV soccer for the fall.

**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. A decision will be made in July or August.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Erin Schwarz submitted a bill for \$186.00 for meetings in March, April and May. **A. Sirowich made a motion to approve the bill. D. Taylor seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**BUDGET**

The referendum vote on the budget is tomorrow. Sports subsidies have been cut from the 2017-2018 budget. There are cuts to the recreational programs line and the Special activities account will be used to pay for the Family Day fireworks next year. B. Egan encouraged the commissioners to get out the vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The question was asked if motorized vehicles such as dirt bikes were allowed at Matthies Parks. They are not allowed and it is posted on the sign.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**M.E. Fernandes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 PM. D. Ferretti seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz  
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission