

BEACON FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
November 20, 2017

Members Present: B. Egan, D. Ferretti, M.E. Fernandes, S. Ruhl, D. Brooks, D. Taylor (7:01 PM) A. Sirowich (7:04 PM)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Erin Moffat, Hannah Moffat, Al Concilio, Domenick Sorrentino, Richard Minnick

B. Egan called the meeting in the Board of Selectman's Conference Room to order at 7:00 PM and led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment:**

Erin and Hannah Moffat spoke to the assembled about the Beacon Falls Youth Theatre Group. Erin has been assisting with the group and Hannah is a member and she enjoys meeting people and getting to know each another and putting on the plays. Erin explained the plan to put on a play in the spring and the rights to the play can be expensive with a lot of work going into the performances. The library is requesting \$200 from Parks and Recreation to assist with the production. **M.E. Fernandes made a motion to approve the \$200 request. D. Ferretti seconded the motion. All ayes.** Erin thanked the commissioners and noted that the library hopes to keep growing the program. They are working with peer mentors from the high school, with a Newtown theatre connection, and they have 2 groups of 14 students meeting regularly. They anticipate a cast of about 30 students for the spring production. Erin and Hannah exited the meeting.

**S. Ruhl made a motion to move the Riverbend Park line item forward on the agenda to this point in the meeting. M. E. Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**Riverbend Park**

Domenick Sorrentino and Richard Minnick, who headed the Riverbend Park committee, noted that Riverbend was rededicated and officially belongs to the town as of April 4, 2017. Work on the park is finalized, so members of the committee are present to officially close out the Riverbend Park Committee. The park is being used constantly and there is always a car there. The project is well deserving for the town of Beacon Falls and through hard work and a lot of effort, it is now complete. A maintenance program for the park is needed. The park took over 10 years to finalize with \$100,000 US Fish & Wildlife grant and about \$7,000 from the town funds. A. Concilio noted that Trout Unlimited has made contributions to the park and this group, which he works with, hopes to help with future projects. There is room for eventual expansion or riverwalk expansion of Riverbend Park. A. Concilio noted that Trout Unlimited has several classroom programs involving raising salmon and trout, which he would like to bring to Beacon Falls. A. Sirowich noted that they were able to sponsor the trout program at Laurel Ledge for several years. B. Egan thanked the members of the Riverbend Park Committee for their work and service to the Town.

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**Minutes:**

**D. Ferretti made a motion to approve the October 2017 minutes as presented. D. Brooks seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**Nominations for Officers:**

B. Egan can no longer serve as Chairman, as his term is complete. **B. Egan nominated S. Ruhl as Chairman. D. Brooks seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. All ayes.**

**S. Ruhl nominated B. Egan as Vice Chairman. D. Ferretti seconded the motion. All ayes.** The election will be completed next month.

**Old Business:**

**Matthies Park:** Al Banyasky has marked the trails at Matthies and he is working on the side trails. D. Ferretti will redo the map to include the side trails. The markings are painted on the trees.

There is a huge tree down behind the playground on the trail about 20 feet in. Public Works should remove the tree.

**Pent Road:** All leagues are done and the Sugar Shack should be cleaned for the winter. B. Egan will check that this is accomplished. The Public Works department has ordered clay for Field #2, so they can spread it in the spring before the season starts.

**Riverbend Park:** Following up with Riverbend, new trees have been planted and thanks to a \$7500 grant from Katharine Matthies Foundation there will be new picnic tables ordered. There is electric power to a box in the middle of the parking lot, so the committee is figuring out how to light trees for the holidays. The new picnic tables will have a center post cemented into the ground, so that flooding will not be an issue. There is still a question of whether the horseshoe pits from the upper pavilion areas should be moved to Riverbend. The posts at Pent Road were pulled.

**Sports Leagues**

Basketball league is up and running with recreation and travel teams set and practice starting. They have worked out the question with Region 16 on the cost of custodians for the weekend.

**Park Activities**

Zumba is running a 6 week program. The library is holding the Flanders Wreath Making Workshop with funding assistance from Parks & Recreation.

**Community Media Center** – S. Ruhl had nothing to report.

**New Business**

The Town's Human Resource firm has requested job description for the summer camp counselors and application form/references for the students working there for the summer.

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The Finance Office has ordered credit card readers which will allow us to take credit card payments into the Special Activities account for all programs.

The commissioners reviewed the 2018 calendar dates. **M. E. Fernandes made a motion to approve the calendar. A. Sirowich seconded the motion. All ayes.**

S. Ruhl noted that the Project Purple food truck event was very successful and he would like to invite trucks to the fireworks next summer. The trucks would register and pay for a spot at the event. S. Ruhl is working on booking the fireworks. He will arrange the contract and down payment

**Correspondence**

The commission received a letter from Beacon Falls Library regarding a Lego Mindstorm competition which they attended. The Stealth Dragons team of 7 boys placed 5<sup>th</sup> out of 24 teams. The library thanks the commission for supporting the group and contributing to their success. The letter went on to request \$200 for the Beacon Falls Youth Theatre Group.

**Applications**

B. Egan received an application from the Roxbury CC Foundation to conduct a walk at Pent Road in January. He approved the request with the understanding that the town will not guarantee that the trails at Pent are cleared. The parking lot and path are among the last priorities when there is a snowfall. The applicant is based in Naugatuck and the commission is not planning to charge them a fee, as they are a non-profit.

**Grants**

As previously mentioned, new trees have planted at Riverbend Park from the \$7500 received from the Katharine Matthies Foundation.

**Bills**

No bills

**Budget**

Nothing to report at present. The State budget has been approved so budget cuts are not expected.

**Adjourn**

M. E. Fernandes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. D. Taylor seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Schwarz