

Beacon Falls Parks and Recreation Commission
10 Maple Avenue
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting

October 15, 2018

MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Alliance

Present: Steve Ruhl, Mary Ellen Fernandes, Bob Egan, and Don Ferretti

Not Present: Desiree Brooks, Donna Taylor, and Allison Sirowich

Others Present: Mike Ferrari

Chairman Steve Ruhl called the meeting to order at 7:00P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on September 17, 2018 as submitted by the clerk for tonight's meeting: Egan/Fernandes; no discussion; all ayes.

3. Comments from the Public

Mike Ferrari, 55 Barry Road, Oxford, was present at tonight's meeting to inform the Commission on the CT Bird Atlas. M. Ferrari indicated that this is an opportunity for the parks and he is a volunteer for the organization. CT Bird Atlas is a major effort from CT DEEP and the University of CT to survey the birds in CT. M. Ferrari also indicated that this is a statewide matter, lasting 3 years, and the last time the survey was done was back in the 1980's. The survey will assess the diversity of the birds in CT and will allow the natural areas to attract people.

M. Ferrari indicated that the methodology will be dividing the state into 596 blocks and Beacon Falls is divided into 2 blocks – 79C and 79D. M. Ferrari was present to request permission to enter into Matthies Park in order to collect data. M. Ferrari noted that all his data is uploaded electronically and could provide it as often as the Commission would like. S. Ruhl asked if he will be interested in Toby' Pond and M. Ferrari indicated yes, definitely.

After a brief discussion, S. Ruhl asked for a motion to allow M. Ferrari into Matthies Park, once the park opens, and Toby's Pond in order to collect data for the CT Bird Atlas.

Motion to allow Mike Ferrari to enter into Matthies Park, once it opens, and Toby's Pond and collect data for the CT Bird Atlas: Egan/Fernandes; no discussion; all ayes.

4. **Old Business**

a. **Matthies Park**

S. Ruhl indicated that the park is still closed since there are still some hazardous areas. The Board of Selectmen are having a meeting tonight and will be discussing the situation and when Matthies Park may be opened.

S. Ruhl also indicated that Sophie Zyla is working on getting rid of the knotweed.

b. **Pent Road Recreation Complex**

S. Ruhl indicated that softball is still playing as well as the football and baseball leagues. S. Ruhl noted that there is concern regarding abuse to the fields due to all the sport leagues requesting to use the field, especially football. S. Ruhl noted that the Members will need to discuss about limiting the use of the fields for next year.

c. **Riverbend Park**

B. Egan indicated that there was nothing new to update the Members on Riverbend Park.

d. **Sports League Reports**

S. Ruhl indicated basketball sign-ups have occurred twice and softball has about 2 weeks left.

e. **Park Activities / Miscellaneous**

S. Ruhl indicated that Allan Banyacsky wasn't able to attend tonight's meeting but submitted a report. A. Banyacsky is working on the trails at Toby's Pond and is waiting on the opening of Matthies Park. S. Ruhl also indicated that there is a new pine tree on Main Street to replace the one that died.

f. **Community Media Center Update**

M. Fernandes indicated that she was unable to attend the last meeting.

g. **Toby's Pond**

S. Ruhl indicated that there was nothing new to update the Members on Toby's Pond.

5. **New Business**

S. Ruhl indicated there is renewed interest in the Rimmon Hill Schoolhouse. State Senator Logan will be visiting the schoolhouse and see if there is any assistance from the state. S. Ruhl indicated that the four corners are plume and there is no asbestos. S. Ruhl also indicated that the idea is to move the schoolhouse to the end of North Main Street. S. Ruhl noted that it is state property but Senator Logan will be looking into this for the town.

6. **Correspondence**

The Commission's clerk submitted the 2019 Meeting Schedule to the Town Clerk and provided a copy to the Members.

7. **Applications**

S. Ruhl indicated there were no applications received.

8. **Grant Information**

S. Ruhl indicated that there were no updates on the Grant Information.

9. Review and Payment of Bills

There was an invoice from the Commission's clerk received for tonight's meeting. The invoice is for the September 17, 2018 meeting and in the amount of \$64.75.

Motion to approve and pay the invoice from the Commission's clerk as submitted for tonight's meeting in the amount of \$64.75: Egan/Fernandes; no discussion; all ayes.

10. Budget

The budget was not received for tonight's meeting.

11. Executive Session (if needed)

The Commission did not enter into Executive Session tonight.

12. Adjournment

S. Ruhl asked the Members if there were any other discussions for tonight's meeting and there were none. S. Ruhl asked the clerk to add the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman to next month's agenda.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 P.M.: Egan/Fernandes; no discussion; all ayes.

The next regular meeting for the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for Monday, November 19, 2018, starting at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission