

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MONTHLY MEETING  
JANUARY 16, 2018**

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

S. Ruhl called the Special Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 7:00 PM and then led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: S. Ruhl, B. Egan, D. Taylor, M.E. Fernandes

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Sirowich, D. Ferretti, D. Brooks

OTHERS PRESENT: Jill Fitzpatrick from Beacon Falls Karate

**MINUTES**

**M.E. Fernandes made a motion to approve the December, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. D. Taylor seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Jill Fitzpatrick from Beacon Falls Karate presented the commissioners with a flyer for trial karate programs featuring 8 weeks session which offer discounted registrations. The commissioners reviewed the document. Ms. Fitzpatrick answered their questions and she will provide a digital copy of the flyer so that it can be circulated and used for publicity. S. Ruhl noted that the flyer looked good and advised Ms. Fitzpatrick that she can publish a live link to launch the program and get sign-ups started.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. MATTHIES PARK**

1. Trails have been marked by Al Banyasky and they look good. He would like to continue to help out in this area.
2. S. Ruhl noted that commissioners should look for other concerns at the park, such as the large tree down on the trail behind the playground. Concerns can be addressed by Public Works using the Matthies Park line item.
3. There was a question about ice skating at Matthies Park and how it is determined whether skating is allowed. There should be signs which are posted saying; "Skating is Allowed at Your Own Risk" or "No Skating Allowed". A depth check is needed to determine if the ice is thick enough.
4. In the past, the commissioners discussed putting on a "Beacon Falls Day" winter event with skating and a warming station with hot chocolate. It would be something to consider for the future if there is interest.

**B. PENT ROAD**

1. No activity at Pent Road at this time of year.

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2. Field #2 needs to be redone in the spring. Public Works has ordered some of the clay but more is needed which is not in the budget for this year.

**C. RIVERBEND PARK**

1. 10 trees have been planted at Riverbend Park using \$4,200 of the Katharine Matthies grant. These include the trees which were decorated for the holidays. Lights for those holiday trees were purchased using the Recreational Program line item with B. Egan's approval.
2. Picnic tables for the park will be ordered in the spring.

**D. SPORTS LEAGUES**

1. The basketball League is up and running and season is going well to date.

**E. PARK ACTIVITIES**

1. S. Ruhl has had conversations with the Fire Department about moving the fireworks to Main Street by the police station. He is looking for a spot which will be acceptable to launch the fireworks and move the proposal forward.
2. S. Ruhl also noted that there is discussion about moving Rimmon Hill Schoolhouse to the same section of Main Street by the police station. The current owners of the property may be willing to donate the building to the Beacon Falls Historical Society, if it can be relocated. JTP Construction has offered to help with the process. A slab would be needed on North Main Street between the road and the fence by the Police Station. The building is of historical significance and it would be favorable to have the project completed by 2021, which is the town's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
3. Mainstream Canoe & Kayak has not invoiced us for the event from last summer. They need to be contacted about a date for this summer's event.
4. Zumba is running a 5 week session.
5. B. Egan will begin booking concerts for the summer. He has already booked The Bernadettes for June 27<sup>th</sup>. Concerts will be on Wednesday nights.

**F. COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER**

1. The committee has not held any meetings recently. Nothing new to report.

**NEW BUSINESS** - None at this time.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - None.

**APPLICATIONS**

- A. There are no new applications at this time.
- B. S. Ruhl received a notice about a "Shiver & Quiver Run" being held at Pent Road on January 27<sup>th</sup> at noon. B. Egan believes that this is the walk that he approved last month, weather permitting.

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**2018 FACILITY APPLICATION**

- A. The commission reviewed the revised 2018 Facilities Application and discussed the new language regarding leagues being charged for field damage and establishing a resident team with at least 5 Beacon Falls players. They agreed to the changes.
- B. There is a part of the application which references the Police Private Duty rate, which needs to be reviewed. **B. Egan made a motion to approve the 2018 Facilities Application with the change to the police private duty rate. D. Taylor seconded the motion. All ayes.**
- C. The application will be posted on the Town website with attachments.

**GRANTS**

No further update on grants. Katharine Matthies application is due on May 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

None at this time.

**BUDGET**

Budget requests will be coming out shortly. The line items which the commission is responsible for include: *Concert, Recreation Programs & Activities, Stock Fish and Seasonal Help*. B. Egan noted that the lines have been sufficient, and the budget requests should not change very much from last year's budgeted amounts.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

B. Egan noted that the following members have terms which are expiring at the end of June, 2018: Allison Sirowich, Don Ferretti, Bob Egan, and Mary Ellen Fernandes. If the members wish to continue on the board, they should submit a letter to the First Selectman's Office stating they wish to be reappointed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**M.E. Fernandes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz  
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission