

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MONTHLY MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 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 7:07 PM and then led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Lori Ewen from Softball League, B. Desrochers and E. Pulkinnen from RACBL, Kurt and Zachary Hummel from BSA Troop 138

MINUTES

B. Egan made a motion to approve the January, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes, as presented. M.E. Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

E. Pulkinnen submitted that RACBL league application and paperwork for use of the fields. The scoreboards for both fields are not working. B. Desrochers had the scoreboard controller with him and believes it is the problem because it is rattling. The Field 2 controller is not even in one piece. Replacing the control unit will hopefully solve the problem for Field #1. Field #2 may have a short in the wiring to the scoreboard in addition to needing a new control unit, and they may need an electrician. The manufacturer of the controllers is Nevco and the Public Works crew will be notified and explore options for fixing them.

S. Ruhl will read through the recreation softball and RACBL applications for approval. ‘

Field #1 was repaired last year, so Field #2 is next, followed by Field #4. The coaches have been instructed not to use Speed-Dry since it damages the fields. On Field #2 home plate needs to be redone and reset, because it is not lined up with 2nd base and the pitcher’s mound.

E. Pulkinnen needs to complete a safety survey for RACBL’s little league paperwork. He was directed to speak with Steve Moffat to complete the survey.

Zachary Hummel from Troop 138 is an Eagle Scout candidate looking for a project and welcoming ideas. He was there to listen to the meeting. S. Ruhl mentioned that the trails at Matthies Park have just been marked and the trails there always need to be opened up. Benches or picnic tables on the trails are options. There is also the possibility of cutting a trail on the back path to Rimmon Hill Road.

S. Ruhl mentioned that work needs to be done at Toby’s Pond and Rich Minnick is still the steward there. Kurt Hummel stated that Troop 138 had completed several projects at Toby’s

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Pond and BSA insures all of the workers while a project is in process. S. Ruhl mentioned a loop around Toby's Pond which has been overgrown. Zachary Hummel will speak with Mr. Minnick.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. Al Banyansk is still working on trails at Matthies, widening existing trails.
2. M.E. Fernandes mentioned that he could work on a new trail on the other side of the viaduct, up the hill on the right side where the sledding location was.

B. PENT ROAD

1. When weather allows, the parks crew will begin work on Field #2.
2. M.E. Fernandes, in looking at the current budget, noted that there \$1500 in funds in the Telephone line, which could be allocated to fix the scoreboards.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

1. B. Egan noted that the park is well used every day. He will be ordering picnic tables using the K. Matthies grant funds soon.
2. The trees along the river are still being gnawed by beavers and they have discussed plastic fencing to wrap the trees or installing guards of some type.
3. He also needs to get to Riverbend to take down holiday lights.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

1. The Basketball League will be wrapping up later this month
2. S. Ruhl noted that the RABL and Woodland Softball applications look good and he will review them.

E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. S. Ruhl is meeting with Atlas Fireworks on March 1st to discuss moving the fireworks to Main Street. The fireworks would be fired up over the trees from the Cold Spring Road area. The proximity to the train tracks may be an obstacle, and we would need to contact Metro North for approval.
2. On March 10th, he is meeting at the old schoolhouse on Rimmon Hill Road to discuss relocation of the building to the end of Main Street. A foundation would need to be poured and JTP Construction is willing to help complete the move of the building. The current owners are ready to have the building removed from their property. Selectman Mike Krenesky would like to plan events for the 150th anniversary of Beacon Falls and moving the schoolhouse would allow it to be showcased for the anniversary.
3. B. Egan has booked 5 concerts so far and all are on Wednesday nights – June 27th is The Bernadettes, July 18th is The Kerry Boys, and July 25th is the Rich Bobinski Orchestra. He has also booked the Al Fenton Bid Band and the Totally Unrehearsed Band for August 8th. M.E. Fernandes suggested a band named A Will Away.

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4. The Fishing Rodeo will most likely be set for Saturday, April 28th. There is \$3,000 in the budget to stock fish. St. Michaels Men's Club will be meeting on the event shortly and then B. Egan will have more information.

F. COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER

M. E. Fernandes does not have any new information from the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Beacon Falls Youth Theatre is looking for sponsors for their June production of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. There will be an ad book and Parks & Recreation can use the ad to publicize the summer concerts or Family Day events. The commissioners discussed a full-page ad for \$150.00 at the "Grampa Joe" level. **B. Egan made a motion to spend \$150 from the Recreation Programs and Activities line for Grampa Joe sponsorship. M.E. Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes.**

CORRESPONDENCE

- A. The commission received a letter from the First Selectman's office about locking the Town Hall before they leave.
- B. There is also an FOI request from a Shelton Attorney requesting the public records of arrests and injuries in the parks for 2017. This letter will be sent to the First Selectmen office for response.
- C. S. Ruhl thanked the commission for the fruit basket that he received when his mom passed away.

APPLICATIONS

- A. The 2018 Facility application has been published and the TULIP insurance information is attached to it and it is on the town website.
- B. Applications from the leagues are beginning to come in.

GRANTS

The K. Matthies application is due May 1st. S. Ruhl inquired if K. Matthies Foundation would consider funding to complete moving the Rimmon Hill Schoolhouse.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

None at this time.

BUDGET

Budget requests on the majority of the parks line were submitted by R. Pruzinsky as Public Works Foreman. The following 2018-2019 budget requests were submitted:

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Seasonal Employees - \$15036.00
Stock Fish - \$3,000
Recreation Program & Activities - \$3,000
Independence Day Celebration - \$15,000
Concerts - \$5,700

OTHER BUSINESS

B.Egan thanked Erin Schwarz for her work as clerk for the commission. Marla Scirpo will be taking over the clerk duties starting in March.

ADJOURNMENT

D.Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. M.E. Fernandes seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission