

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



BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting

March 19, 2018

MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Alliance

Present: Steve Ruhl, Bob Egan, Mary Ellen Fernandes, Donna Taylor, Don Ferretti (arrived at 7:15), and Desiree Brooks (arrived at 7:25)

Not Present: Allison Sirowich

Chairman Steve Ruhl called the meeting to order at 7:10P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on February 20, 2018 as submitted by the clerk for tonight's meeting: Egan/Fernandes; no discussion; all eyes.

3. Comments from the Public

Allan Banyacsky, the unappointed official Trail Keeper for Matthies Park, was present at tonight's meeting to give a report. A. Banyacsky distributed a written report and maps to the Members. A. Banyacsky noted that he remarked the white, yellow, red, and green trails but was having a difficult time with the blue trail. A. Banyacsky also noted that he has been in contact with Joe Rodorigo. A. Banyacsky reviewed his future plans of exploring and marking trails once the weather gets better and asked if he would be able to update the trail board based on his plans/drawings. D. Ferretti noted that his daughter had previously done very detailed maps of the trails and will provide a copy for A. Banyacsky.

After a brief discussion, A. Banyacsky noted that classes or park events could be held, if the town was interested. A guided trail hike, class on how to make a fire, how to read a topo map, and how to read a compass were some of his suggestions.

4. Old Business

a. Matthies Park

M. Fernandes and S. Ruhl noted that this was covered under Comments from the Public.

b. Pent Road Recreation Complex

S. Ruhl noted that an application was received from the Beacon Falls Lions Club for their 5K to be held on May 5, 2018 and an application from Woodland Softball for the use of the fields.

S. Ruhl noted that the Sugar Shack failed their inspection due to the overhang of appliances. S. Ruhl also noted that he was informed that it has been remedied and an application needs to be submitted again or contact Health Services to schedule another inspection. The Sugar Shack will not be able to open without this and the responsibility is with Baseball/Softball.

S. Ruhl indicated that 2 kits have been ordered for the scoreboards. Baseball needed an upgrade and Softball was not working. Field 2 is scheduled to be regraded and reseeded. The application will have a point of emphasis on the use of speedy dry or quick dry material where the coach will be held accountable and there will be a loss of application.

c. Riverbend Park

B. Egan indicated that the picnic tables have not been ordered yet and will be single-post, cemented with the benches attached. Depending on the price, B. Egan noted that he will order 2 or 3. S. Ruhl asked if the plastic material for going around the trees to protect against the beavers are still being looked into and B. Egan indicated yes. The Christmas tree has been unplugged and something more permanent for next year will be looked into.

d. Sports League Reports

S. Ruhl noted that Basketball has finished.

e. Park Activities / Miscellaneous

S. Ruhl noted that there are no events going on at the moment.

S. Ruhl indicated that he spoke with Metro North regarding the moving the town fireworks to the Depot Street Bridge. Metro North indicated that there will be no problem as long as the town is not touching their property or touching the tracks. S. Ruhl attended the Board of Selectmen meeting to inform them of the plan and the Selectmen are on board and gave their permission to proceed. S. Ruhl attended the Lions Club meeting to discuss the selling of food at the fireworks. S. Ruhl also spoke with Beacon Falls Pizza Palace. The Members briefly discussed food vendors for the event.

S. Ruhl indicated that the backside of the Rimmon Schoolhouse has been damaged by something falling on the building. Also, lead-based paint was falling from the ceiling and there is asbestos in the chimney wrapping. The floor boards are warped due to the damage. S. Ruhl indicated that there was an advisement not to touch the building. Also, the recommendation is to not move the building but to build a replica.

B. Egan indicated that there are 6 bands for the summer concert program. B. Egan also indicated that he represented the Commission and read to the 2nd grade at Laurel Ledge.

f. Community Media Center Update

M. Fernandes indicated that there were no updates.

S. Ruhl asked to have Agenda Item g. Toby's Pond added to next month's meeting agenda.

5. New Business

There was no new business discussed at tonight's meeting.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence received for tonight's meeting.

7. Applications

S. Ruhl indicated that he will be signing off on the application for the Beacon Falls Lions Club 5K and the insurance is there. S. Ruhl also indicated that he will be signing off on the application for Softball and B. Egan will verify that the insurance is there.

S. Ruhl indicated that he signed the application for the fireworks and ½ of the payment is made now and ½ at the show.

8. Grant Information

S. Ruhl indicated that the Commission needs to look into the Katherine Matthies Grant for work at Matthies Park.

9. Review and Payment of Bills

There were no bills received for tonight's meeting.

10. Budget

The budget was reviewed at tonight's meeting.

11. Executive Session (if needed)

Motion to enter into Executive Session in order to discuss possible litigation, and to invite the Commission's clerk to stay while the Commission is in Executive Session: Egan/Fernandes; no discussion; all ayes.

The Commission entered into Executive Session at 8:13 PM and came out of Executive Session at 8:16 PM. There was no action taken by the Commission.

12. Adjournment

S. Ruhlasked the Members if there were any other discussions for tonight's meeting and there were none.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17P.M.: Ruhl/Taylor; no discussion; all ayes.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission