

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



BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting

July 16, 2018

MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Alliance

Present: Steve Ruhl, Bob Egan, Mary Ellen Fernandes, Donna Taylor, and Desiree Brooks (arrived at 7:06)

Not Present: Don Ferretti and Allison Sirowich

Others Present: Allan Banyacsky, Rich Minnick, Dom Sorrentino, and Erin Moffat

Chairman Steve Ruhl called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on June 18, 2018 as submitted by the clerk for tonight's meeting: Egan/Taylor; no discussion; all ayes.

3. Comments from the Public

Allan Banyacsky was present at tonight's meeting to update the Members on Matthies Park. A. Banyacsky indicated that trail work at Matthies Park is on hold until the park is reopened. A. Banyacsky also indicated that he and Rich Minnick hiked the perimeter of Toby's Pond and created a trail map. B. Egan was contacted by R. Minnick informing him that A. Banyacsky will be working on the trail and a key for the gate was given to A. Banyacsky. A. Banyacsky noted that he was given permission to use an ATV and tools/machinery needed to clear the trail which will be done when it's cooler.

Allan Banyacsky indicated that he attended the Conservation Commission meeting held on 07/10/2018 and informed the Commission that he was available to map out Lantern Ridge if they required his services with clearing the existing trail and/or creating new trails.

Rich Minnick, 147 Cedar Lane, and Dom Sorrentino were present at tonight's meeting to discuss Toby's Pond. A report was distributed to the Members. R. Minnick noted a copy of a letter dated 01/30/2009 that was sent to the Board of Selectpersons from him. The letter noted some items of concern that should be addressed before the Town accepts the O & G Pond. R. Minnick briefly explained the Gift Agreement dated 07/12/2004 between O & G and the Town of Beacon Falls and noted that it was accepted sometime in the fall of 2009.

R. Minnick indicated that there is a dam in the southern spillway and it should not be a dam and is a safety issue. R. Minnick indicated that volunteers need to contact the Town and/or Bob Egan if they are going to be doing work at Toby's Pond. Again, it is a safety issue in case someone gets hurt. R. Minnick briefly explained the Toby's Pond Meeting minutes from 02/22/2012 and a letter from Nafis & Young dated 10/08/2012 to the First Selectman, Gerard Smith.

R. Minnick briefly explained a copy of a letter dated 03/06/2018 to the Board of Selectmen from him. The letter noted that fish surveys were conducted in 10/2009, 05/2017, and 10/2017. Toby's Pond has an abundance of fish and fishing is excellent. The water quality has not been tested in a while and should be tested. The letter also notes that the area above the northern spillway needs to be graded and seeded, and the southern spillway needs to be mowed and trimmed periodically.

R. Minnick mentioned that the Scouts are looking to clear the area sometime in the fall. They will also be rebuilding the kiosk that is there. R. Minnick reminded everyone that no gasoline-powered boats are allowed, except the emergency vehicles.

S. Ruhl asked about the remaining money of \$20,710.56 and R. Minnick indicated that the money is dedicated for Toby's Pond based on the Gift Agreement. D. Brooks asked if there will be a meeting to discuss what get done, when it gets done, and who's responsible. R. Minnick indicated that the annual report is given to the Selectmen and it outlines all of that. D. Brooks questioned about the use of the money for a gate. D. Brooks noted that they are people in the park all times of the night and it is important to protect the park.

After a brief discussion, S. Ruhl indicated that the Members will review the report that R. Minnick distributed.

Erin Moffat was present at tonight's meeting to follow up with the Members from last month's meeting. E. Moffat noted that she is looking for the Commission to sponsor her play. The play would be about 20-45 minutes long and thought of having a guest speaker to talk to the audience about the Holocaust. E. Moffat indicated that she contacted Region 16 regarding the use of Woodland High School and was informed that the high school would be available the first two weekends of September. E. Moffat is looking to hold the play that weekend of September 14th. She will be holding auditions in two weeks and rehearsals will be held at the Congregational Church. E. Moffat noted that hiring a police officer will be expensive. S. Ruhl asked if she is looking for the Commission to cover the cost of the police present and the insurance. E. Moffat indicated yes. D. Brooks asked what would the ticket price be and E. Moffat wasn't sure at this time. B. Egan noted that the cost of the police is about \$70.00 per hour.

After a brief discussion, S. Ruhl made a motion to sponsor E. Moffat's play and to cover the costs of the police present and insurance.

Motion to sponsor, cover the insurance through the Town, and cover the costs up to 4 hours of Police present for Erin Moffat's play: Ruhl/Fernandes;no discussion; all ayes.

4. Old Business

a. Matthies Park

M. Fernandes noted that there is a concern with people using chain saws in Matthies Park. S. Ruhl indicated that no one has been authorized by the town to be in Matthies Park and to be using chain saws. There was also a concern with emergency vehicles getting into the park in case someone gets hurt. The Members would like to have the word out that Matthies Park is closed and no one should be entering the park.

b. Pent Road Recreation Complex

S. Ruhl recapped the issue with the fireworks that were scheduled for Family Day. S. Ruhl noted that Metro-North and DOT were contacted monthly ago and agreed to the new location for the fireworks. The Fire Marshall never filed the paperwork and the new Fire Marshall requested the agreement by Metro-North and DOT in writing. DOT then denied the request to have the fireworks go off at the new location. Father Mathai did not grant the use of the green for the fireworks. S. Ruhl indicated that there was a discussion held as to what would be done and the final decision of cancelling the fireworks was made.

M. Fernandes asked if the soccer wall project was started and B. Egan indicated that the site has not been confirmed. S. Ruhl also noted that there is a request for a wall for handball as well.

c. Riverbend Park

S. Ruhl indicated that there is nothing going on at Riverbend Park.

d. Sports League Reports

S. Ruhl indicated that there is nothing to report from the Sports League.

e. Park Activities / Miscellaneous

D. Brooks noted that not everyone is getting the information about the concerts being cancelled. D. Brooks indicated that the Canoe & Kayak event went well at Toby's Pond. D. Brooks also indicated that some people came with their own kayaks and at one point, all the kayaks/canoes were out on the pond.

S. Ruhl indicated that he contacted C. Bielik in regards to nominated Allan Banyacsky as Park Ranger.

f. Community Media Center Update

S. Ruhl indicated that there is nothing to report from the Community Media Center.

g. Toby's Pond

5. New Business

D. Brooks noted that there has been a request for cornhole to be set up at Pent Road.

6. Correspondence

A thank you letter from the Beacon Falls Youth Theater Group was received thanking the Commission for sponsoring the play.

7. Applications

There was an application received from Region 16 for the use of the fields for soccer and an application for the lower pavilion for a birthday party.

8. Grant Information

There was no discussion on Grant Information at tonight's meeting.

9. Review and Payment of Bills

There was one invoice from the Commission's clerk received for tonight's meeting. The invoice is for the May 21, 2018 meeting and in the amount of \$60.50.

Motion to approve and pay the clerk's invoice dated 06/18/2018 in the amount of \$60.50:

Fernandes/Egan; no discussion; all ayes.

10. Budget

TheMembers reviewed the budget at tonight's meeting.

11. Executive Session (if needed)

The Commission did not enter into Executive Session tonight.

12. Adjournment

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36P.M.: Egan/Fernandes; no discussion; all ayes.

The next regular meeting for the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for Monday, August 20, 2018, starting at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission