

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



**BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Monthly Meeting**

**January 22, 2019**

**MINUTES**  
**(Subject to Revision)**

**1. Call to Order/Pledge of Alliance**

Present: Steve Ruhl, Mary Ellen Fernandes, Bob Egan, Steve Moffat and Desiree Brooks

Not Present: Don Ferretti and Donna Taylor

Others Present: Steve Moffat and Sophie Zyla

Chairman Steve Ruhl called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

B. Egan noted that D. Ferretti was not at the December meeting but the minutes reflect that he was present.

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on December 17, 2018 with the correction of removing Don Ferretti's name as Present to Not Present: Fernandes/Egan; no discussion; all ayes.

**3. Comments from the Public**

Allan Banyacsky was present at tonight's meeting to update the Members on the parks.

A. Banyacsky noted that the November minutes indicated that only one trail was not open at Matthies Park but none of the trails are open at Matthies Park. A. Banyacsky indicated that there are widow makers throughout the trails and provided pictures to S. Moffat and Jamie Gracy.

A backhoe was brought to the park and cleared a path on the west side down to the pond. A. Banyacsky also indicated that the trails on the south side are not passable. A. Banyacsky provided pictures to the Board of Selectmen.

A. Banyacsky indicated that he proposed a Facebook page regarding the trails to the Board of Selectmen. A. Banyacsky asked if the Members thought it was a good idea and S. Ruhl responded that it was a good idea. A. Banyacsky also indicated that he will be doing a survey for Lantern Ridge as to what is needed to be done.

Shawn Tottenham and William Bronn, representatives of the Woodland Valley Softball League, was present at tonight's meeting to update the Members. S. Tottenham indicated that the league is up and running, with registration opened as of January 18<sup>th</sup>. S. Tottenham indicated that there is a new website – WoodlandValleySoftball.com – and purchased the domain name. S. Tottenham noted that there are some clinics in the making and working on the details. S. Tottenham also noted that there is a change in colors.

S. Tottenham indicated that the proposed Open Day is for April 13<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with Boys' Baseball. The plan would be for same day and would like to know if there would work for the Commission. S. Tottenham asked the Members about the speaker system and what the status is. S. Moffat mentioned that there was some damage from the break-in. S. Ruhl noted that some equipment was stolen. After a break discussion, S. Ruhl indicated that the responsibility of the speaker system is the league's, not this Commission's.

S. Tottenham noted that there were problems in prior years with accessing the Sugar Shack. S. Moffat noted that there has been a problem with lost keys or keys not being returned in prior years. S. Moffat also noted that there is a key code on the Sugar Shack and will look into if the key code could have multiple codes. S. Tottenham mentioned that games have had to be called due to the lights not being available.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **a. Matthies Park**

S. Ruhl indicated all the trails at Matthies Park are closed until further notice. S. Ruhl noted that an update was provided by A. Banyacsky during Comments from the Public. S. Moffat noted that he inspected the park and indicated that there is some work that is needed to be done in order to have Matthies Park reopened to the public.

**b. Pent Road Recreation Complex**

S. Ruhl noted that 90% of what S. Tottenham and W. Bronn were asking for are not this Commission's responsibility, but the responsibility of the league. S. Moffat mentioned that there is some snow and ice damage at the Rec. S. Moffat also mentioned that the netting has been damaged due to the weather.

**c. Riverbend Park**

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

**d. Sports League Reports**

S. Ruhl indicated that the basketball league is still going on.

**e. Park Activities / Miscellaneous**

S. Ruhl indicated that there was nothing new to update the Members on regarding Park Activities and or Miscellaneous.

**f. Community Media Center Update**

M. Fernandes indicated that there was nothing new to update the Members on regarding the Community Media Center.

**g. Toby's Pond**

D. Brooks indicated that there is someone looking to do an ice-fishing demonstration and asked if they would need to come to this Commission. S. Ruhl replied that they would, an organized event needs to go through Parks & Rec and complete an application, provide insurance, permission granted.

D. Brooks noted that there have been people parking at Toby's Pond and she notified the police department. S. Ruhl mentioned that a gate may be an option with residents having a swipe card. After a brief discussion, S. Moffat will look into pricing for gates at the parks. S. Ruhl indicated that the discussion of gates for the parks in town will be tabled until the next scheduled meeting so the Commission could obtain pricing.

S. Moffat wanted to suggest a storage box for the summer camp supplied. The camp has an old trailer and it is in need of being replaced. The supplies are crowded and the trailer has mice.

## 5. New Business

S. Ruhl indicated that paperwork has been sent to the State to acquire the property at the end of North Main Street for the movement of the schoolhouse. S. Ruhl noted that there is no cash value to the property and the state will not have any charges. S. Ruhl also noted that the town will not incur any charges.

M. Fernandes questioned who is in charge of one of the accesses to Matthies Park from an abandoned town road. S. Ruhl indicated that no one is and M. Fernandes noted that it is blocked. M. Fernandes noted that there is material being stockpiled. After a brief discussion, S. Ruhl indicated that the Board of Selectmen need to review the situation and determine if the property is town property.

B. Egan indicated that the Commission needs to review and approve the Facilities Application for 2019. B. Egan indicated that the date needs to be changed from 2018 to 2019. S. Moffat noted that flag football did some damage to the fields and recommends that the flag football not use Field 4 next year. S. Ruhl mentioned that the application notes that the applicant is liable for the cost of repairs if the field is destroyed.

Motion to approve the Facilities Application with the change of the date from 2018 to 2019: Egan/Fernandes; no discussion; all ayes.

## 6. Correspondence

There was no Correspondence received for tonight's meeting.

## 7. Applications

S. Ruhl indicated that an application from Flag Football may be coming.

## 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 from the December 17, 2018 meeting and in the amount of \$60.50.

Motion to approve and pay the invoice from the Commission's clerks submitted for tonight's meeting in the amount of \$60.50: Fernandes/Egan; 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. Ruh asked the Members if there were any other discussions for tonight's meeting and there were none.

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

**The next regular meeting for the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2019, starting at 7:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo  
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission