

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



BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
March 18, 2019
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Alliance

Present: Steve Ruhl, Don Ferretti, Bob Egan, and Steve Moffat

Not Present: Mary Ellen Fernandes, Desiree Brooks, and Donna Taylor

Others Present: Allan Banyacsky and Mike Krenesky

Chairman Steve Ruhl called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on January 22, 2019 and February 19, 2019 (no quorum) as submitted: Egan/Moffat; no discussion; ayes by S. Ruhl, B. Egan, and S. Moffat; abstention by D. Ferretti since he was not at the meeting.

3. Comments from the Public

Allan Banyacsky was present at tonight's meeting to update the Members on the parks. A. Banyacsky indicated that Public Works has made tremendous inroads with clearing trees blocking the White Trail noting that there is one tree blocking the West Side of the trail. A. Banyacsky also indicated that S. Moffat informed him that work will continue on the remaining trails that are still impassable or in danger of passing.

A. Banyacsky noted that he plans on scheduling a work party at the end of March that includes clearing the trail on the East Side. A. Banyacsky also noted that all areas in town – Lantern Ridge, Riverbend Park, and Matthies Park – all have “Welcome To” signs but Toby’s Pond does not.

A. Banyacsky indicated that he attended a Board of Selectmen meeting in January and asked if there were any issues in him creating a Facebook site that would revolve around specific outdoor activities relating to Matthies Park, Riverbend Park, Toby’s Pond, and Lantern Ridge. The site would not be sanctioned by Parks & Rec, Conservation Commission, or the Town of Beacon Falls. A. Banyacsky created the Facebook site T.R.A.P. – Trails-Rivers-Angling-Paddling.

4. Old Business

a. Matthies Park

S. Ruhl noted that an update was provided by A. Banyacsky during Comments from the Public.

b. Pent Road Recreation Complex

S. Ruhl noted that that baseball and softball are getting ready for their opening day – April 13, 2019.

c. Riverbend Park

S. Ruhl indicated that there is going to be a ceremony on May 4, 2019, starting at 1:00 PM, hosted by Post 25 American Legion. Post 25 will be celebrating their 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Legion. S. Moffat noted that Public Works could spruce up the area for the ceremony.

d. Sports League Reports

S. Ruhl indicated that basketball is over.

e. Park Activities / Miscellaneous

S. Ruhl indicated that Sophie Zyla emailed him indicating that the work she is involved with at Matthies Park is against the Beacon Falls Conservation Commission Charter. S. Ruhl noted that she is looking to have this Commission adopt her project in Matthies Park.

Motion to have the Parks & Recreation Commission adopt Sophie Zyla's project at Matthies Park: Egan/ Moffat; no discussion; all ayes.

f. Community Media Center Update

Mike Krenesky indicated that at the Board of Finance meeting, he asked the question of the Board of Finance putting money into the project so the concept drawing could be done and the next phase. The Board of Finance responded no to this until there is proof that the people of the community want this project. The Board of Selectmen was going to do a survey but that was never done. M. Krenesky noted that the new Finance Manager suggested added this project onto the Capital Building Plan. M. Krenesky noted that this is on the agenda for the next Board of Selectmen meeting to discuss if the project will continue to move forward or wait to do the Capital Plan.

g. Toby's Pond

S. Ruhl indicated that there is no activity at Toby's Pond.

5. New Business

B. Egan indicated that he received a text from Allison Sirowich that she is still interested and will be running the summer program.

S. Ruhl indicated that Parks & Rec haven't been doing projects lately, more done by the Library. S. Ruhl indicated that there is an interest in having a summer basketball league and will look into this. Another league that may be a consideration is a Can-Jam League at Matthies Park.

S. Ruhl noted that there is a high schooler who would like to have a fundraiser for Best Buddies. The thought is to have a movie night and games. S. Ruhl indicated that the Region 16 would need to be contacted since the fundraiser would like to be held on the football field at Woodland High School.

S. Ruhl noted that he contacted Steve Tottenham of the Baseball League that if kids are unable to afford the registration fees for baseball and softball to please contact this Commission for assistance.

S. Moffat suggested to have the mobile trailer at the Rec Field replaced with a storage box. The mobile trailer is loaded with mouse droppings and is in disrepair, and S. Moffat was wondering if this Commission could fund. S. Ruhl noted that the Commission's budget would need to be reviewed by Erin Schwartz to see if there are funds available.

S. Moffat noted that there are damages to the backstops on Fields 1 and 2 due to the snow. S. Moffat also noted that quotes are being requisitioned. S. Moffat mentioned that some of the problem is that the nets are not being taken down prior to the winter months and there should be a maintenance schedule done to have the nettings taken down every November.

S. Moffat also noted that the batting cages are in need of repairs. S. Ruhl indicated that the netting is the Baseball league's netting, not ours. S. Moffat mentioned that the basketball courts are in need of being power-washed as well as repairs.

S. Ruhl asked if Charlie Schwartz's Eagle Scout project of building a soccer wall is complete. D. Ferretti indicated that it is complete. S. Ruhl noted that he received a letter from C. Schwartz requiring if the Commission would be able to donate to the project. C. Schwartz noted that the project cost was \$900 and was able to raise \$300 towards the project.

Motion to donate \$300.00 as reimbursement to Charlie Schwartz's Eagle Scout project of a soccer wall: Egan/Moffat; no discussion; all ayes.

6. Correspondence

There was no Correspondence received for tonight's meeting.

7. Applications

S. Ruhl indicated that there were three applications received but there are problems with the insurance not stating Beacon Falls as.

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 February 19, 2019 in the amount of \$43.50.

Motion to approve and pay the invoice from the Commission's clerk as submitted for tonight's meeting in the amount of \$43.50: Egan/Moffat; 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. Ruhl asked the Members if there were any other discussions for tonight's meeting and there were none.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 P.M.: Egan/Ferretti; no discussion; all ayes.

The next regular meeting for the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2019, starting at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission