

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



**BEACON FALLS PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**May 20, 2019**  
**MINUTES**  
**(Subject to Revision)**

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

Present: Steve Ruhl, Don Ferretti, Bob Egan, Mary Ellen Fernandes, and Steve Moffat

Not Present: Desiree Brooks and Donna Taylor

Others Present: Allan Banyacsky, Brian O'Connell of Troop 104

Chairman Steve Ruhl called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on April 15, 2019, as submitted: Egan/Ferretti; discussion was by S. Moffat asking to have the minutes clarified that the comment that he made about the bright colors of the bench and stone should be toned down in order to preserve the nature of the park.

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on April 15, 2019, with the added clarification by Steve Moffat: Egan/Ferretti; no further discussion; ayes by S. Ruhl, B. Egan, D. Ferretti, and S. Moffat; and abstention by M. Fernandes since she was not present at the meeting.

**3. Comments from the Public**

Brian O'Connell, 8 Morningwood Drive, was present at tonight's meeting to present his Eagle Scout project to the Commission. B. O'Connell provided copies of his Drowning Mitigation Station project to the Members noting that it was approved by the state.

B. O'Connell indicated that the approximate cost of the project would be \$600 and he has received \$350.00 in donations. B. O'Connell noted that the station would be located in Riverbend Park by the boat/kayak launch. M. Fernandes asked for the plan to stop vandals but making it accessible. B. O'Connell indicated that the plan is to have an alarm system. Pat Tottenham noted his concern about the loudness of the alarm system since he lives near Riverbend Park. B. O'Connell did not know how loud the alarm would be. S. Moffat asked if the alarm would be battery operated and B. O'Connell indicated that it would be solar powered. B. Egan asked if it could be wired to the Police Dept. and B. O'Connell noted that it would not be. S. Moffat asked if there was vandalism who would be responsible for the replacement of the damaged items and B. O'Connell indicated that the town would be responsible.

After a brief discussion, the Members agreed that this project is a good idea. S. Ruhl asked for a motion if the Member would like to donate to the project as presented by B. O'Connell.

Motion to approve a donation of \$250.00 to the Drowning Mitigation Station Eagle Scout project as presented by Brian O'Connell: Fernandes/Egan; no discussion; all ayes.

Allan Banyacsky was present at tonight's meeting to update the Commission on Matthies Park, Toby's Pond, and Lantern Ridge. A. Banyacsky indicated that the new purple and pink have been blazed and the original pink trail was reblazed due to weathering. A. Banyacsky noted that he would like to make a ramp, approximately 6'x3', going across a small brook and he is looking for lumber to make the ramp.

Allan Banyacsky indicated that the red trail is now clear in both directions and there are still two trails closed – the blue and orange trails. A. Banyacsky also indicated that he has been removing the unauthorized markings and will continue removing as he progresses through the trails. A. Banyacsky noted that he plans to bring his ATV up the orange trail to haul equipment.

Allan Banyacsky noted that the cleanup at Toby's Pond has been postponed twice due to inclement weather and he will be clearing brush and invasive weed growth with Rich Minnick. A. Banyacsky noted that the TRAP Facebook site helped with finding the owner of a lost Fitbit at Matthies Park. A. Banyacsky mentioned that he did some research regarding the Hold Harmless Agreement and forwarded it to the First Selectman who will be forwarding it to the Town Attorney to review.

S. Moffat mentioned that he may have some wood for the ramp. After a brief discussion, S. Ruhl indicated that the Chairman of Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission will be contacted to inform the Commission of the plan for building the ramp over the brook on the pink trail.

Pat Tottenham was present at tonight's meeting to inform the Commission of his interest in joining Parks and Rec. S. Ruhl indicated that a letter of intent should be submitted to the First Selectman by P. Tottenham and will be contacted when/if an opening occurs.

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

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

S. Ruhl noted that an update was provided by A. Banyacsky during Comments from the Public. S. Ruhl also noted that there is an interest to start disc golf at the park.

S. Ruhl mentioned that the Library asked the Commission to co-sponsor their Flanders Project. The Parks & Rec's share of the project would be \$800 and asked to table the discuss until more information is received.

S. Ruhl indicated that the new Finance Manager – Natasha Nau – has a 10-year plan starting with Matthies Park that includes benches, lights, trails, parking lot, signage. S. Moffat noted that the plan should be to preserve what we have before added new things.

B. Egan indicated that about 30 kids participated in the Fishing Derby. The weather didn't cooperate and thanked the Barksdale Family for donating the prizes and the Men's' Club donating the food and manpower.

S. Ruhl indicated that he wanted to clarify the information on Family Day. S. Ruhl noted that Family Day will be on July 13<sup>th</sup> and in the past, there have been a cardboard boat regatta. Since there is not much interest, the regatta will not be held and will utilize the canoe/kayak company. S. Ruhl mentioned that there was an interest in a blindfold canoe race and the company will be contacted to see if they could come earlier and stay later. D. Ferretti noted that prizes have already been purchased previously. S. Ruhl noted that a flyer needs to be designed and printed. S. Ruhl also noted that the canoes/kayaks would run from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, with buses start running at 6:00 PM to bring people to Pent Road Rec Center for the fireworks.

##### **b. Pent Road Recreation Complex**

S. Ruhl noted that baseball and softball is going, weather permitting. S. Ruhl also noted that the Naugatuck YMCA will be taking over the Summer Program in 2020 and would need a place to store the equipment.

S. Ruhl indicated that Sean Tottenham has stepped down from the softball league and there is a question as to who and where the keys to the Rec Center are. S. Ruhl mentioned that a discussion for digital keys should be had in the future.

**c. Riverbend Park**

B. Egan indicated that the American Legion held their ceremony at Riverbend Park.

**d. Sports League Reports**

S. Ruhl indicated that Billy Bronn is the new head of the softball league.

**e. Park Activities / Miscellaneous**

B. Egan noted that the Summer Concert Series was revised moving The Kerry Boys from June 12<sup>th</sup> to June 21<sup>st</sup> due to the high school graduation.

S. Ruhl indicated that the New York Yankees are offering a Beacon Falls Night at the stadium for Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. The quoted ticket price is \$40.00 for grandstand seating and S. Ruhl noted that he will find out how many tickets would need to be purchased. S. Ruhl also noted that transportation will not be provided.

**f. Community Media Center Update**

M. Fernandes noted that recent meetings have been cancelled.

**g. Toby's Pond**

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

**5. New Business**

S. Ruhl indicated that the State denied the town in moving the Rimmon Hill Schoolhouse to the end of North Main Street.

**6. Correspondence**

There was an email from Sophie Zyla received for tonight's meeting. The email was regarding the Matthies Park project – plants being put in, poet box, the free library, the knotweed. S. Zyla indicated that she does not have a plan for the kiosk for the free library as of yet for the Members to review.

S. Ruhl indicated that there were comments by S. Zyla on Facebook regarding this Commission were unkind. There was a senior project that was done in the park by a Woodland High School student and an application was not received by the Commission and would have been removed at the end of the school year. The intention of the Commission was to have the project removed since an application was not submitted, a religious artifact is not allowed in the park, and the project was not safe. S. Ruhl also noted that he wanted someone from the high school to contact him but no one did.

## **7. Applications**

S. Ruhl indicated that there were several applications received for tonight's meeting. There was an application from Naugatuck Babe Ruth to use Field 5 but no dates were included. S. Ruhl noted that he will get more information regarding this application. There was an application from Robert A. Cole for use of the Field 1 on June 2<sup>nd</sup> for a picnic and ceremony from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM with a rain date of June 9<sup>th</sup>. S. Ruhl noted that the application will be approved.

## **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 April 15, 2019 monthly meeting in the amount of \$81.75.

Motion to approve and pay the invoice from the Commission's clerk as submitted for tonight's meeting in the amount of \$81.75: Egan/Fernandes; no discussion; all ayes.

## **10. Budget**

The budget was received and reviewed at 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 8:14 P.M.: **Egan/Ferretti**; *no discussion*; all ayes.

**The next regular meeting for the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, 2019, starting at 7:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo  
Clerk, Parks and Recreation Commission