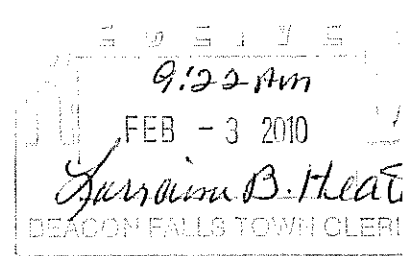


**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 2, 2010  
MINUTES  
(Draft Copy – Subject to Revision)**



First Selectman S. Cable called a Special Meeting of the Beacon Falls Board of Selectmen to order at 5:07 P.M. in the Town Hall Assembly Room.

**PRESENT:** First Selectman S. Cable and Selectman M. Krenesky.

**ALSO PRESENT:** J. Blesse

**ABSENT:** Selectman D. Sorrentino.

S. Cable noted this Special Meeting was held to discuss the 'Take Pride in America Program' with J. Blesse.

J. Blesse asked if there is a universal plan for the new Toby's Pond, adding the Department of the Interior has funds available for this purpose. He noted with the Boy Scouts celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a partnership with the Scouts might serve the Town well in trying to secure some of that federal funding. He noted the grant specifics were not that complicated but admitted he had not researched the entire grant.

J. Blesse had no specific plans for a project and felt any monies received could be put to good use. He noted Beacon Falls is a part of the CT Rivers Council, specifically the Mad River District. He noted there are a lot of scouts in the Valley and felt they could take the initiative to get a project moving, providing manpower. He also noted the local Rotary Club has also pledged its support and possibly the Seymour and Naugatuck Rotary's might also be interested. This might also be a project for Eagle Scouts.

J. Blesse suggested there be a way to resource all of the groups which need to be included in a project involving Toby's Pond. He envisions perhaps this area being a big fishing destination or a camp-out area, adding that some type of permanent structure might also be considered.

S. Cable noted no actual plan for Toby's Pond has been formulated, but the consensus is that it should be considered as passive recreation, adding some group might want to adopt a part of the area as a special project. S. Cable noted her personal vision of Toby's Pond is that would provide a huge recreation area and it should promote economic development. She envisions kayak or canoe shops, bicycle rentals or an ice cream place. She would like to see activities presented that would bring in people to the area.

M. Krenesky said he agreed with S. Cable, adding he would also like to see some type of connection to Route 42 and the downtown business area. He added we 'have a bid pond directly connected to the Naugatuck River'. He asked if we can use the recreational theme and also connect to Matthies Park and then to Woodland Regional High School. He noted the idea of new cross-country and bike trails with a walkway down to Toby's Pond and then to the Streetscape might be an idea to consider.

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S. Cable said she would like to get more of the Department of the Interior's grant specifics.

M. Krenesky asked if Town might also consider opening the 'adoption' of Toby's Pond to other organizations.

S. Cable noted is important to develop a process that can be adopted by the Town to include other partners, i.e. the Rotary and Scouts. M. Krenesky asked if businesses might also be included, with S. Cable noting the Board of Selectmen. Economic Development Commission, Citizens for Tomorrow's Downtown and the Beacon Falls Merchants are working together to develop some type of plan to improve the general appearance and landscaping of the downtown.

M. Krenesky had concerns whether the Department of the Interior's grant project would accept a partial plan or do they want to see the entire grand picture.

S. Cable again noted she would like to see the area used for passive recreational use such as canoeing and camping. She would also like to be able to use the facility during each of the four seasons.

J. Blesse cited town of Bethany's park that is owned by the Town and rented out to organizations and individuals, adding there is no charge for canoes or kayaks, but a fee is paid for use of the facility. He added there is no place in Beacon Falls to hold various activities, citing the availability of either St. Michael's or the Congregational Church. Construction of some type of building could house ice skating rinks, batting cages, driving range or laser tag events. Comment made why should Beacon Falls residents have to go out of Town for their entertainment needs.

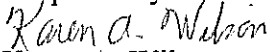
S. Cable suggested Board of Selectmen come up with some type of plan and possibly discuss this with the TPA discussions on-going with regard to Matthies Park.

All agreed it is important to take advantage of the Naugatuck River, with S. Cable noting there is some vacant land in the area that might be utilized as well.

J. Blesse noted Bill Bear, a Civil Engineer, has volunteered his time to help the scouts with some type of project.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Karen A. Wilson

Clerk for Special Board of Selectmen Meeting – February 1, 2010.

FEB - 3 2010