



**Town of Beacon Falls
Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
C/O Town Clerk
10 Maple Avenue Beacon Falls, CT 06403
February 20, 2024
(Subject to Revision)**

Member Present: Peter Monti (PM), Robert Egan (RE), Donald Ferretti (DF), Laura DeGeorge (LD), Victor Santos (VS), Morgan Betti (MB)

Members Absent: Mary Ellen Fernandes (MEF)

Other Present: 1 Member of the public, Co-Town Planner Molly Johnson (MJ)

1. **Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag**

PM called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the assembled in the pledge of allegiance.

2. **Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings**

PM Motion to approve the 01/22/2024 Special Meeting minutes as present made by RE, seconded by LD. All ayes.

3. **Comments from the public:** Joann Delenick (JD) 243 Bethany Rd. – One of the things that has come to my attention is the persistent garbage that accumulates at Toby's Pond and I'm planning to go out with someone who picks up the garbage to find out more about what's going on but in the meantime I have researched what other communities do – they call it trash capture, the EPA has a whole list of projects and approaches. In the immediate what I would like to do is develop a formal way of recording and memorializing the efforts of any individual or group/volunteer that goes out and picks up trash so I am going to ask people to tell me what they did and where they did it. PM That is a good idea, I can tell you when the water gets high it washes everything down and a lot gathers in the brush. JD In response to that I was told there was a huge trash dump up in Waterbury and in one person's opinion that trash is still part of the stuff that's coming up. One of the approaches is to stop the trash at the source.

4. **POCD Guidance:** (MJ) I am Molly Johnson of NVCOG, I am the Co-Town Planner – I am here to talk about the POCD, it was brought to my attention that there were some questions so I'm here to answer those. As you likely know, the town is in the process of updating our 10-year plan. What we are doing now is reaching out to community leaders and boards/commission members to get visions for the town to ensure it's put in the document. I have some key questions to list for you to think about and we can have a discussion tonight or you can think about it and send responses over to the chair.

1. What are the key goals for your department/commission in the next 10 years?
2. Do you have projects you'd like to see happen? Examples – new infrastructure, sustainability projects, health, safety, and community improvements?
3. Do you have a recent plan or initiative you've created that you would like to see incorporated into town priorities?

PM A question I have is, any items we are looking at or considering is it the more detailed the better? Are you looking for estimated cost or work hours? Or just an outline of things we would like to see addressed. MJ That's a great question, if you have that level of detail you are welcome to send that over. PM Would it also help to identify separate rankings? Adverse consequences of things that aren't addressed? MJ That would be great.



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5. **Old Business:**

- a. Matthies Park: **PM** Are you getting the Park Report? **DF** Steve contacted me and said he has nothing to report because they're not doing much at the parks at this time. **PM** We could let him know we've noticed the debris and see if they have a plan for what they're going to be doing.
- b. Pent Rd. Complex: Not discussed.
- c. Toby's Pond: Briefly discussed under Comments from the Public.
- d. Riverbend Park: Not discussed.
- e. Community Garden: **VS** I've had a couple people reach out to me; I believe the email issue has been resolved. We have a couple people that have asked for their plots back, we had one person who heard that the community garden is closing. I have names but no way of contacting people so if they want their same plot they are more than welcome to keep them, but we need to put it out there that it's open, so people know. I also need to know when we open it. **LD** Usually around Mother's Day. **DF** We can put something out on the website about it, so they know it is still available. **VS** I was also wondering, because we need new plot numbers, I was thinking I would reach out to Cub Scouts to see if they would like to do this. **PM** I would do that because I know often times the Cub Scouts obtain some of their skills and awards around things like that.
- f. Park & Recreation Activities: **LD** We can discuss the snowman later after we're done.
BE The fireworks I had to do Saturday, July 13th. The concerts are pretty much booked except for 1 date. **PM** That reminds me I reached out to Brian at Harding Fisheries letting him know it will be the last Saturday of April for the Fishing Rodeo.
- g. YMCA Update: **DF** We will start our meetings on the 2nd Monday of March at 9:30 am. **PM** You can always send to Don or I anything you want to check in on or ask about.
- h. FY2024 & FY2025 Budget: **PM** We are only looking at an increase of about \$6,800 due to the Summer Camp because of the minimum wage and we looked to increase the Summer Concerts and for the Fireworks we anticipated an increase. We are also giving the summer camp director and assistant director a raise each because it has been a while since they received an increase.
- i. Bulletin Boards/Publicity/Signage: **LD** Erin sent us some ideas of boards and I reached out to Steve (Moffat) to make sure we get size appropriate and his opinion was that we shouldn't do something on the side of the Sugar Shack but to do it on the corner of the tennis court to do something in conjunction with the sign or replace it similar to what we have at Matthies how you can see both sides of the



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board. I like the standing one at Matthies. **PM** A lot of people go right by there to see it. **VS** That's a good idea. **LD** Center sign with post 43 x 6 feet x 100 height - \$880. This one would've been nice for the side of Sugar Shack, but it has a lip that won't fit against the side of the building. It's waterproof and easily cleaned from graffiti. **LD** Motioned to purchase the standing sign with post for \$880.00. **VS** Seconded. All ayes.

6. **New Business:**

- a. **POCD: Roundtable Discussion:** **PM** As I mentioned before if anyone wants to send me thoughts on projects and such we can outline our thoughts on prioritizing. I'll follow up again on my thoughts.
- b. **LD** Motioned to give out 2 additional prizes of 25\$ each for the snowmen contest. **MB** Seconded. All ayes.
- c. **DF** I have dates for some items coming up:
The Bike Rodeo will be Saturday, June 8th, 2024, with a rain date of June 15th, 2024.
Boat Regatta Saturday July 27th, 2024, with a rain date of August 3rd, 2024.
The Hayride will be October 20th, 2024, with a rain date of October 27th, 2024.

7. **Correspondence:** **DF** They would like to have a Pickleball Tournament at Pent Road. I do not have a problem with that, I'll get back in touch with them. As long as they organize it and fill out the application and get the insurance, I'll review all that with them. **PM** I do not see a problem with that.

8. **Facility Applications:**

- a. **Review of 2024 Facility Application:** **DF** We have 3 applications –
Region 16 Field Day May 28th the Rain Date is June 3rd.
Valley Fusion Softball Fields 2+3 –
Woodland High School they take the fields in the day so there's no conflict from 2:30 – 5:30 from April to June.
I have another one pending but I'm waiting for more complete information, but all of these are gathered I have their certificate of insurance and the dates on the calendar.

9. **Grant Information:**

- a. **DEEP Recreational Trails Grant:** **PM** I know the Trails Grant we are still working on that.
- b. **K. Matthies Grant:** **PM** Don Identified a need to replace some of the picnic tables because timewise I don't want to rush it and we want to make sure we can price it out to have the same type of tables. As a reminder if you see things that come to mind let's try to bring those up and discuss them as the year goes on and we can start scoping things out. **LD** We should get some tables at Toby's too. **DF** We want to do Matthies and Pent Road Pavilion's too.
- c. **DECD Application for the Community Center:** Not discussed.

8. **Executive Session (if needed):** Not needed.

9. **Adjournment:** **LD** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM: **BE** seconded the motion. All ayes.



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Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Pastor
Sub-Clerk, Parks and Recreation

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Clerked by Nicole Pastor
Meeting Date: 02/20/2024