



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

BEACON FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting
March 18, 2024
MINUTES (Subject to Revision)

1. **Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance:** P. Monti called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Members Present: P. Monti, L. DeGeorge, R. Egan, M. Betti, D. Ferretti, V. Santos, ME Fernandes
Members Absent:
Public Present: Heather Deegan, Tom Trumbley
2. **Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings:** Motion to approve the February, 2024 Special Meeting minutes as presented. L. DeGeorge made a motion to approve the minutes. V. Santos seconded the motion. All ayes.
3. **Comments from the Public:**
 - Tom Trumbley met with D. Ferretti and he is hoping to organize a pickleball tournament. He thanked the town for putting in the courts and he is an avid player. Beyond the 2 existing courts, he would be taping off additional courts on the basketball and tennis courts. He has tested the courts with painters tape which would be down for 1-2 days. He would bring in additional nets with rubber feet and his main concern was testing with the tape, so that there would be no damage to the courts.
 - He is planning the event for Sunday, September 1st and Monday, September 2nd – Labor Day weekend. There will be 12 courts. He will submit an amended application which would include the pavilion, with electricity. He would have a men's doubles, mixed doubles, women's doubles category. He does not anticipate needing police coverage (over 100 people), but we will let them know about the event. He will probably post signage and we can help with promotion. The board was happy to have Tom move forward with the application. This could be an annual event.
4. **Summer Camp Check In:** Heather Deegan noted that summer camp dates will 7/8-8/9/24 this year. Fireworks will be 7/13/24, to make Heather aware since they are late this year. Tuition is fine where it stands at \$100 for 5 weeks of camp and \$190 for 2 or more campers. The Town budget covers the wages and the tuition covers the costs for the camp (aside from personnel). She expects to have 14-15 counselors/and 4-6 volunteers. She will reach out to staff to see who is coming back. L. DeGeorge asked if parents want a full day of camp? The YMCA has full day options and we will advertise their camp. The camps worked together last year and Heather would welcome that again. We hope to publish the registration form in the next couple of weeks.
5. **Old Business**
 - a. Matthies Park: There was a large tree down across the driveway and a large log in the water and trails were cleared.



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- b. Pent Road: Two of the backboards are down. The hoops were bent and damaged and out for repairs. The nets are up on the tennis and pickleball courts. Fire extinguishers were all serviced and the kitchen hood was inspected. The AED needs to be checked.
- c. Toby's Pond, Riverbend, Veterans and Volunteer Park: Routine spring clean up maintenance. D. Ferretti noted that he will talk to R. Pruzinsky about the steps down at Volunteer Park down to the river.
- d. Park Activities. –
 - i. Fishing Rodeo: Men's Club will be there to cook. Harding Trout will need a Purchase Order. We will generate a Flyer and invite Trout Unlimited. P. Monti will order the fish.
 - ii. Bike Rodeo: The Police Dept will help out again this year and J. Piccirillo will be there. A Flyer will go out. Impact Teen Drivers is interested in appearing at the bike rodeo. This is a no cost event. D. Ferretti will be in touch with the Naugatuck YMCA for prizes: bike raffle. The event is June 8th from 9:00 AM to Noon for ages 12 and under. D. Ferretti has left over helmets and water bottles. Registration will be up to that day with same day registration until 10:00 AM. The Boy scouts and Cub scouts helped last year. Rain date is June 15th. Summer Concerts: R. Egan noted that he has all the concerts booked on Wednesday nights. The concert budget needs to increase for next year. The June 2024 budget will also need to be increased. There is only 1 concert in June and the flyer is being finalized.
 - iii. Fireworks – July 13, 2024 is the date and the contract is set. We hope to have a magician again and the YMCA for face painting. We also hope to have the bounce house/obstacle course again. Steve Tilki is the music and he is all set. The Fire Marshal will complete the permit paperwork.
 - iv. Cardboard Boat Regatta: D. Ferretti expects more participation this year and people were enthusiastic. D. Ferretti will work on booking canoes and kayaks which will run from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Regatta will be 9:00 AM – Noon, last Saturday in July with a rain date. He hopes to book more canoes so people can go out together.
- e. Community Garden – V. Santos reported that the garden is largely full. V. Santos needs contact information for Plot 12 and 14. The sitting garden is an available plot. The Lioness wants to collect recyclables to make it into a bench for the parks. It is a new project for them which they are just starting, so maybe the garden can benefit from it. The Cub Scouts could also make plot numbers as a project. The funds are now in the Special Activities account. Garden opens in May. JC Landscaping tills the plots for free. Remove the Instagram account. We need to develop a form which plotholders sign off on for liability purposes.
- f. YMCA Update – D. Ferretti will reach out to someone at YMCA to discuss upcoming events: Bike Rodeo, Fireworks, etc.
- g. FY2025 Budget: The budget process is moving forward and there was only 1 question at the Budget workshop about the Parks budget and that involved increasing Fireworks costs.
- h. Signage: The new park sign was ordered and is being delivered to Public Works.
- i. POCD (Plan of Conservation & Development): No update and we expect a draft from SLR which the commission can review. Molly from the NVCOG was looking for the commissioners thoughts and input. Public bathroom at Matthies would be a good long term project which would greatly increase use of the park.

6. New Business:



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- **L. DeGeorge a motion to propose a Budget Transfer of \$640 from Special Activities into Concerts. M. Betti seconded the motion. All ayes.**
- The BHC Easter Egg Hunt will be this weekend on Saturday @ Matthies Park - March 23rd 12:30 PM
- M. Betti reached out to DEEP regarding fishing programs they can offer in Town. Justin Wiggins at DEEP has an event planned for July 1st from 4:30 – 7:00 PM - Fish with Care at Toby's Pond which will be about fishing safety and etiquette. Free of charge. Registration is available on the DEEP website. The flyer should be available for the fishing rodeo. They hope to do a Boating Safety Program next year.

7. Correspondence: None at this time.

8. Facility Applications:

The Pickleball Tournament was well received by the board and will be approved when complete.
D. Ferretti is handling sign off on all the applications.

9. Grant Information:

- a. K. Matthies Grant – Next year. We do not have a project for this year. P. Monti would like to develop these upcoming applications using a comprehensive approach.
- b. DEEP Recreational Trail Grants – The Town did not apply for the grant this year. Any grant application will need an overall maintenance plan for trail improvement. Next year we can apply for trail planning grant with a thoughtful, comprehensive proposal which would include maintenance.
- c. DECD (Department of Economic and Community Development): The Town is still awaiting a response from DECD on the community center application and responding to questions from the grantor.

10. Other Business: None at this time.

11. Adjournment: **R. Egan made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM. V. Santos seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Sincerely,

Erin A. Schwarz