



Wee Play Community Project

www.weeplayproject.org

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Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.

--Verna M. Kelly

The Wee Play Community Project Group Forms

A new community group, the Wee Play Community Project, was recently formed to work cooperatively with the Beacon Recreation Department in support of building the Wee Play Children's Park, Beacon's first play environment designed specifically for children under six...And more.

With the recent approval by the Beacon Recreation Commission to go ahead with building the Wee Play Children's Park, an appeal to the community to help fund the project began. While the Recreation Department is providing significant funding by picking up the cost of site preparation, fencing, and all play surfaces, more money is needed from the community to complete the project.

As support for the park began to grow, it became clear that the community was looking for more than a place to bring their small children to play. A desire to participate in the community we live in, wanting to meet peers and make friends, and the need for more child-friendly activities are all motivating people to participate in the Wee Play Children's Park project.

In response to this feedback, the Wee Play Community Project was formed. The Wee Play Community Project is a group of people coming together to make Beacon more child-friendly, a great place to be a parent, and a great place to be a small child. We will accomplish this by working cooperatively with the Beacon Recreation Department, by being active in the community, and by undertaking projects and activities that benefit the quality of life for children under six in our community.

The first order of business for the Wee Play Community Project is to help the Beacon Recreation Department build the Wee Play Children's Park!

Wee're on the Web!

Where can you find out about the Park and other Wee Play Projects?

It used to be long...complicated...difficult to type and impossible to remember! But thanks to Wee Play supporters Chris and Tiffany Stevenson, our Web address is new and improved. Chris and Tiffany researched available web domain names and found just the right one for our group. Not only did they donate the name, they even set up the redirect for us! Check us out at our new address:

www.weeplayproject.org

Thanks, Tiffany and Chris!

How about some FUN-raising?

We have set a goal of \$25,000 to be raised to cover the costs of a large play structure, yard toys and smaller play equipment, benches, an awning, artwork and possibly a sculpture garden.

Several different funding streams have been identified, including grant proposals to foundations and local civic organizations, local business donations, "fun" raising events, and individual donations.

Any ideas you might have about how to achieve this goal are welcome! We also need volunteers to help out with projects already underway. To help with our fundraising efforts or to donate, please contact our Fundraising Coordinator, Kelly Ellenwood at 831-4318, or via email to fundraising@weeplayproject.org. Some projects already in the works are:

E-bay/ReePlay: This project is two-pronged.

1) E-bay sales of donated gently used items and collectibles. This is being coordinated by Tiffany Stevenson and will be an ongoing fundraiser for the project. Volunteers needed for many aspects. Please contact Tiffany at 831-5548 or via email tiffany@weeplayproject.org.

2) ReePlay "Big Sale" A big yard sale of gently used baby and children's items to be held at a centrally located community space. Mary Antalek is

coordinating this effort. Contact her via email to mary@weeplayproject.org.

Stepping Stones: We thought a fun way to get individual donations was to sell individual home-made stepping stone kits for about \$20, with each stone being placed somewhere within or around the park. This project is still being discussed, but we are going to need lots of people to help make it happen! Please contact Kelly Ellenwood to help us with this project, kelly@weeplayproject.org.

Beacon Farmer's Market Bake Sale: We would like to have a presence at this weekly event, selling baked goods, and taking orders for the Stepping Stone donations. Information about the project would be distributed, as well as a balloon for the kids, buttons, etc. We would also like to be a presence at many of the other community events, like **Earth Day at Stonykill Farm**, the various **Sloop Club Riverfests**, and the **Easter Egg Hunt**. Volunteers needed to coordinate any or all of the above. Please call or e-mail Kelly Ellenwood at kelly@weeplayproject.org. (845) 831-4318.

Approaching local businesses: If you know of a local business that would like to donate funds, goods, or services, please let us know!

Acknowledgement: All donations will be acknowledged, both by letter and if over \$250, by inclusion on a plaque or as part of a permanent sculptural piece yet to be designed by a local artist. We have also discussed giving local businesses a sticker or small poster to place in their windows, showing their support of the project.

If you are an artist and would like to donate your creative abilities, we would love to talk to you!

Donate Now! We hope to be able to take online donations very soon! Check the website for updates on this and other events coming up.

For more info on how to forward your donation, contact Kelly at donations@weeplayproject.org.

Community Day July 2

Fun! Food! Fireworks! And a whole lot more!

The City of Beacon fireworks display will return to Memorial Park this year. In conjunction with that, the Wee Play Community Project is (gulp!) undertaking the creation of a big, old-fashioned community day event at Memorial Park on the day of the fireworks. With your help, this will be the event of the year!

We are currently seeking volunteers to assist with the Community Day Fair. The Fair will include food,

entertainment, vendors, and carnival-themed activities sponsored by local agencies, civic groups, churches, sports teams and the like. The theme of the day is to promote community among Beacon's residents, young and old alike. This is a huge undertaking and we need a lot of help to make it a great event for all. Volunteers are needed for many tasks, from simply posting flyers to hosting a booth with an organization you are a member of. There will be a fee for groups to participate. The fees collected will go towards future community-focused events. To volunteer or for more information contact Pam Seegler at pam@weeplayproject.org.

Donate Items for Resale!

Time to clean out the kids' closets and pack up those outgrown toys!

We will gladly accept your pre-loved toys and gently used children's clothing and turn them into cash! We have two projects underway to earn money from donated items: Ebay and the ReePlay sale. Ebay sales will be ongoing, and the ReePlay sale will be a huge event sometime this summer.

We're keeping our inventory to only children's items, but that means anything for kids—clothes, books, toys, baby equipment, videos/dvds, music... The only thing we can't accept is car seats.

We'd love to have your stuff! Contact Mary Antalek at mary@weeplayproject.org to donate.

Ideas In The Works

Fun Walk—Day Out With Thomas Bus Trip—Character Party—Kid's Songs Sing Along—New Moms Network—Facilitate starting playgroups — And more! Would you like to participate or help organize any of these fun ideas? We want to hear from you! Contact julann@weeplayproject.org

Wee're Looking For...

Other things besides money! While money will get us to our fundraising goal, there are other things we're asking the community to provide or help with... washed stone, landscaper's weed-control fabric, New Jersey beach sand, sod, clean fill, landscape design, landscaping/gardening items, tree planting services, bilingual liaisons to non-English speaking members of our community, free space to hold meetings or activities, donated items or services for raffles or silent auctions, food services for activities, volunteers for (possible) playground installation, bags of quickcrete redi-mix cement, masons to advise or volunteer for stepping stone project... contact julann@weeplayproject.org if you can help. We'll keep an ongoing list on the website!

Howland Library Children's Wing Needs Input

By now we all know that plans are being made for the Howland Library reconstruction. An area of particular interest is the design of the Children's wing. Most of you know Ginny Figlia, the Youth Services Librarian at Howland Public Library. She has been serving the parents, children and teenagers of the Beacon City School District for the past 15 years. If you talk to Ginny about the new library you'll immediately sense her enthusiasm for the Library Reconstruction Project. Not only is she excited about the possibilities in store for the children's area, she has been long aware of the need in our community to have more library space for reading programs, tutoring, the Homework Center, arts and crafts, free cultural performances for children, and many more activities the library offers. She is thrilled that this need will be fulfilled and that our children will have the space and resources they deserve. She's eagerly anticipating more space for children's collections and activities in a welcoming environment.

Ginny is in need of community input and support for the design of the proposed children's wing. She wants to be sure that the community has the opportunity to be a part of this project. This is a very exciting improvement to our community, and it's wonderful to be invited to participate in the creation of something as special as the Children's wing. The Forever Friends of the Howland Public Library invite you to an Open House/Information Night about the new library design on **Thursday, February 17th at 7:30 pm**. Please contact **Ginny at 831-1134, x.103** for more information. You can also email her at howlandlibrary@hotmail.com.

The newest Howland Library program, **Baby and Me**, is geared for the littlest patrons up to 24 mos. This is a great program, with much reading, singing, playing and socializing. Everyone has lots of fun! Ginny is looking forward to having better space for more programs like this to nurture our budding readers

We cannot live for ourselves alone. Our lives are connected by a thousand invisible threads, and along these sympathetic fibers, our actions run as causes and return to us as results.

--Herman Melville

Mark Your Calendar

The open space, ample seating and great selection of coffees, teas, and hot chocolate-to-die-for make the **ChThonic Clash** great for an evening get-together! Join us there on **Saturday, February 26 at 8:30 p.m.** to catch up on our projects and enjoy some company. Put the kids to bed and come on over! For info Contact Julann at 831-7254 or by email at julann@weeplayproject.org.

The next Wee Play child-friendly gathering at **A Kid's Place** will take place on **Saturday, March 12 at 10:00 a.m.** Come and play! For info contact Julann Cobb @ 831-7254.

The Forever Friends of the Howland Public Library invites you to an Open House Information Session about the new library design on **Thursday, February 17th at 7:30 pm**. For info contact Ginny at 831-1134, x.103 or email howlandlibrary@hotmail.com.

T-Ball (ages 5-6) and Jr. Baseball sign up will take place on **February 16 & 17 from 6-9 p.m.** at the BHS Cafeteria. There is a \$50 registration fee. For info Contact Tony Romanelli @ 831-3558.

Girl's Softball (ages 5 and up) sign up at the **Tuesday Evening Softball Clinics** at Rombout between **6-9 p.m.** For info Contact Bill DiNapoli @ 831-5959.

Beacon Recreation's Annual Easter Egg Hunt Will be held on **March 26 at 11 a.m.** at Memorial Park. Free. Easter Candy and exciting raffles! Contact Beacon Recreation @ 838-5024.

Contact Info

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Howland Public Library

Ginny Figlia, Youth Services Librarian

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