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BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

Meeting Minutes of the Parker Memorial Park Commission, Town of Branford, Connecticut  
Special Meeting of January 22, 2025, at the Joe Trapasso Community House Honoring Branford World  
War II Veterans, 46 Church St.

Present: Commissioners Esborn, Masotta, Radulski, and Redman; absent: Kovi. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

**Public Comments and Budget:** There were no members of the public present. There was no budget report, as the Commission's funds have been transferred to the Town's Parks and Recreation Department (P&RD). Commissioner Radulski has asked the P&RD for a regular representative to attend; with Director Palluzzi having retired in December 2024, this request will be renewed.

**Correspondence:** Members of the public have been contacting Commissioners with requests regarding memorial benches, special access to the Park, and other topics. Notes:

1. Commissioner Radulski reported that another bench, in honor of Mae Genovese, has been installed; it's near the bathhouse, and was installed on an empty pad there by the Department of Public Works (DPW) to get the bench out of its work areas. Commissioner Radulski performed a walkthrough with members of the Genovese family this past weekend, and they selected a spot near the playscape for the bench's permanent placement once a concrete pad can be installed there.
2. Commissioner Radulski reported that he'd received a call from a person interested in holding a scholarship fundraiser in the Park on August 2<sup>nd</sup> featuring music, and that the caller had been informed that holding such an event in the Park would involve many requirements (e.g., security personnel, insurance certificate, an application to the Recreation Department, volunteers to monitor the bathrooms to ensure no damage occurs there, etc.). If the Park turns out to not be a suitable venue, then the Commission thought that one of the following locations might work: Firemen's Field (Company 5), Elks Club, Owenego, VFW hall, American Legion hall, possibly others.

**New Business:** None, this being a special meeting.

**Old Business:**

1. Harbor Lights 2024 (luminaria) was held December 21<sup>st</sup>, and it was noted that it was a windy night, which presented challenges to keeping the candles lit. The used luminaria were picked up from the Park immediately after the event, and there were no issues with the event brought up by any member of the Commission.
2. Commissioner Radulski noted at a previous meeting that he'd seen that the dock repairs resulted in the former large-link anchor chains, installed using funding from the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven and the Branford Rotary Club, have been replaced with standard chain links. He stated that he's mentioned it to Town Hall personnel and will follow up with an email.
3. The P&RD is reported to be proceeding with plans to modernize the bathrooms and other buildings, per a previous report from Mr. Palluzzi; no status updates have been received, and it's unknown whether the work has a project designation, a building committee is planned, etc. The Commission discussed the following at a previous meeting: reconfiguring the storage shed/tractor garage to hold the Park's work truck (as well as the equipment already being stored); fixing the drainage system for the bathhouse showers; modifying the bathhouse to retain some changing areas and also open up some parts for shelter/tables; the many difficulties with establishing a snack bar there; installing a sewer line (may be unnecessary); jetty repair; plans for the Park overall. The Townwide plan should be reviewed to see what's there. Commissioner Redman stated that she'd inquire of the First Selectman's office whether the work has a project designation, a building committee is planned, etc.

4. Regarding concerns with pedestrians in the roadway near Big Rock, Commissioner Radulski has asked the DPW to continue the walkway from the Big Rock parking lot up to the cottages' parking area as time permits and to install appropriate signage. Commissioner Radulski is also to prompt the DPW to furnish their input on the walkway photos taken last Spring so that an article regarding the walkway, pedestrian roadway safety, and "no dogs" can be published in the Spring.
5. The Commission received a request previously that the use of an electric mower for Park use be investigated; Commissioner Masotta is to follow up with the P&RD on that.
6. Regarding movement of the dumpster back to the Big Rock parking lot to allow waste-removal trucks to reach that area, two additional utility poles have been installed to lift the wires, and the wires still need to be transferred. Commissioner Redman stated at this meeting that she'd been informed by Eversource that power would be turned off soon (possibly on January 25<sup>th</sup>) for a short period; that's possibly being done to facilitate the transfer of the wires, but that's just an assumption.
7. Regarding personnel changes at the Recreation Department, no word has been received as to who will be the next Director. The Commission discussed ways to honor the previous director's service, and Commissioner Redman is to research some items discussed by the Commission at this meeting, possibly for placement near the bocce court.
8. Tree trimming was performed by Davey Tree Expert Company last week. Commissioner Redman stated that there were still some dead & leaning trees near the cottages, and Commissioners Radulski and Masotta noted that they'd been on the walkthrough with the Davey representative, seen some trees fitting that description, and that those trees had been given a lower priority for trimming/removal than other trees. Commissioner Esborn mentioned that he'd noticed a maple tree near the water fountain at the bathhouse that appeared to be weak (three bad spots, dead wood), and Commissioner Radulski is to check on it and report.

**Continuing Items to Monitor:**

1. The bocce court having had personally owned items near it (Commissioner Radulski is to check on this on a regular basis).
2. The operability and timing of the lights at the main gate and dock; the possibility of getting the lights near the bathhouse dimmed for events such as the fireworks and Harbor Lights (Commissioner Radulski is to follow up on this with Town Hall).
3. Keeping the Park hours signage up to date (Commissioner Radulski is to put back in place the signage showing that the Park closes at sunset).

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM, via whatever means are available, allowing for safety; the location will be stated in that meeting's agenda and will likely be the Joe Trapasso Community House Honoring Branford World War II Veterans, 46 Church Street.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Radulski, Chairman