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Meeting Minutes of the Parker Memorial Park Commission, Town of Branford, Connecticut  
Regular Meeting of February 19, 2025, at the Joe Trapasso Community House Honoring Branford World  
War II Veterans, 46 Church St.

Present: Commissioners Kovi, Masotta, Radulski, and Redman; absent: Esborn. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. The minutes were reviewed and approved by unanimous vote, with Commissioner Masotta offering the motion to approve, and Commissioner Redman seconding the motion. Commissioner Radulski note that the minutes incorrectly listed the date for this February meeting as the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**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).

**Correspondence:** Members of the public have been contacting Commissioners with requests regarding memorial benches, special access to the Park, and other topics. There was no correspondence to report at this meeting.

**New Business:** None

**Old Business:**

1. 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.
2. The P&RD is reported to be proceeding with plans to modernize the bathrooms and other buildings, per a previous report from the former and now retired Director of parks and Recreation, Mr. Alex 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Regarding movement of the dumpster back to the Big Rock parking lot to allow waste-removal trucks to reach that area, and the wires have been transferred to the two additional utility poles installed to lift the wires.
6. Regarding personnel changes at the Recreation Department, Ms. Dale Izzo has been appointed director of parks, recreation, and the senior center. The Commission discussed ways to honor the previous director's service, and Commissioner Redman is to research some items discussed by the Commission at the January meeting, possibly for placement near the bocce court.

7. 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 whether that was dealt with by Davey Tree Service during their work in January.

**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).
4. Commissioner Radulski reported in January 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 and they selected a spot near the playscape for the bench's permanent placement once a concrete pad can be installed there.
5. Commissioner Radulski reported in January 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; refer to the January minutes for more information.

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday, March 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 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Radulski, Chairman