

Meeting Minutes of the Parker Memorial Park Commission, Town of Branford, Connecticut  
Regular Meeting of November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Joe Trapasso Community House Honoring  
Branford World War II Veterans, 46 Church St.

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Present: Commissioners Esborn, O'Neill, Redman, and Radulski (Absent: Masotta). The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted, with the motion to accept from Commissioner Esborn and seconded by Commissioner Redman.

**Public Comments and Budget:** There were no members of the public present, and no budget report, as the Commission's funds have been transferred to the Town's Board of Recreation.

**Correspondence:** Members of the public have been contacting Commissioners with various requests regarding memorial benches (one receipt is pending). Also, Commissioner Radulski reported that he'd emailed a 'punchlist' of requests for maintenance/repair items to Director Palluzzi of the Town's Parks and Recreation Department (that punchlist is attached to these minutes); those items have been removed from the body of the minutes. Finally, the "Harbor Lights" luminaria event is to be held on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of the following day.

**Old Business:**

1. With the repaving of the Park's road now completed, Commissioner Radulski is working to determine what actions are needed to limit the space available for cars to park illegally in the turning circle near the flagpole – details are in the October minutes. Commissioner Radulski has referred the question to the Town's Fire Marshall and will follow up.
2. There are several utility-furnished lights not working (see the October minutes for a list); Commissioner Redman has contacted Town Hall with that information and stated that she'd continue to follow up. The operability of the lights at the main gate and dock are to be checked by Commissioner Radulski periodically.
3. The Commission discussed when the concrete blocks in the main parking area should be moved to enclose the graveled area.
4. In addition, the Commission has decided to prohibit the use of amplified public-address systems by private parties; Commissioner Radulski is to draft a statement for a vote after checking with the office of the First Selectman about any potential issues with such a ban.
5. The Commission discussed how to limit the distribution of special parking permits for the summer months; details are in the October minutes. Commissioner Radulski is to contact Town Hall about this.

**New Business:**

Commissioner Redman suggested meeting with the gate guards twice yearly – once before the season starts, and again after the close of the season; this would be to define expectation and Park rules and answer any questions from the gate guards.

**Continuing Items to Monitor:**

1. The area near the bocce court has been reported to sometimes have had personally owned items near it. Commissioner Radulski is monitoring the area.
2. The online rules about entry for non-stickerholders were incorrect at one point; Commissioner O'Neill is monitoring the Park-related information periodically.

3. Dumping of yard waste has been noted at the north-central part of the Park, at the 'back' entrance by which pedestrians can enter the Park; the "No Dumping" sign there needs to be replaced, and Commissioner Radulski will do this and monitor the area. His latest report is that there were no signs of any additional dumping.
4. Commissioners Esborn and Radulski will be inspecting the trees near the Playscape for any dead or interfering limbs, and then taking action as appropriate.
5. The Town fireworks are to be held in Parker Memorial Park next year, per a report from Commissioner Redman.
6. Commissioner Radulski reported at a previous meeting that he'd heard from a member of the public that there may be some type of evening/nighttime boat parade on the Branford River this year; the Commission discussed this and has no objection to allowing parking after sunset, so long as the parade organizers provide security. Commissioner Radulski reported at the August meeting that the event has been postponed until next year.

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 7 PM, via whatever means are available, allowing for safety; the location will be stated in that meeting's agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Radulski, Chairman

1. Fall/Winter: The Commission requests your input as to when the concrete blocks in the main parking area should be moved to enclose the graveled area, which will reduce the wear on the grass areas over the winter,
2. Fall/Winter: The Commission requests your input as to when the bathroom water will be shut off, to avoid freezing.
3. Fall/Winter: The Commission requests that the screen door of the men's bathroom be repaired.
4. Fall/Winter: This Summer's heavy rains significantly increased the erosion on the secondary sledding hill (which runs from the north side of the top of the main easterly hill down toward the bathroom building); the Commission requests that inspection and remediation be performed.
5. Fall/Winter: The Commission requests that a concrete block or several blocks, as needed, be positioned to preclude parkgoers' vehicles from parking in the area north of the bocce court; parking there blocks access to the north pedestrian entrance.
6. Fall/Winter: The Commission requests removal of the brush and dirt piled in the small turnout just west of the bathroom building.
7. Fall/Winter: The Commission requests that the east-facing light on the bathroom building be restored to service.
8. Fall/Winter: The sinkhole that reappeared along the railing in the Park's property in the southwest corner of the Park was recently filled in; the Commission had previously inspected the sinkhole during a walkthrough and determined that it is caused by a collapsed drainage pipe. The Commission requests that the drainpipe be repaired, in order to permanently eliminate the sinkhole.
9. Fall/Winter: The Commission requests removal of a PVC pipe that's at the northwest part of the Big Rock beach.
10. Fall/Winter: The Commission requests that phragmites growing at the north part of the Big Rock beach be dug out, because it's significantly reduced the useable area of the beach; and,
11. Fall/Winter: The Commission requests removal of any mulch piled close to tree trunks, which can cause rotting of the bark and (eventually) the death of the affected tree.
12. Winter: The Commission requests that a "No Dogs" sign be installed at the handicapped parking spaces near the bathroom building
13. Winter: The Commission requests that a "No Dogs" sign be installed at the Big Rock parking lot. A parkgoer recently reported to Commissioner Radulski that a "No Dogs" sign in that area had been removed; therefore, the Commission believes that a very robust form of affixing the sign to a post will be needed.
14. Winter: The Commission requests placement of signs to notify drivers of the in-Park speed bumps, and the Town Engineer's office has confirmed that such signs are to be installed.
15. Winter: The Commission requests that a "No Smoking" sign be added at the handicapped parking area near the bathrooms.
16. Winter: The Commission requests installation of signs stating, "No bicycles off paved areas" near the west edge of the Park near the cottages.
17. Winter research item: It's been discussed, after difficulties encountered by gate guards with cars blocking in other cars in the main parking lot, whether parking spaces ought to be designated (via the use of lime or another method); this will also maximize the number of

spaces available. It was noted at a previous meeting that it may be necessary to mark only the main parking axis from each concrete block, and the first few spaces, in order to guide parkgoers as to where to park. The Commission requests that you research this topic for the action in the Spring, if action proves to be feasible.

18. Winter research item: It's been discussed that installation of a light (solar-powered if feasible, to be mounted at the top of the flagpole so that the light shines downward and does not contribute to light pollution) on the flagpole is needed to keep the flag illuminated so that it can be flown at night. The Commission requests that you research this topic for action in the Spring, if action proves to be feasible.
19. Winter research item: The Commission requests your research as to whether signage can be installed on the road leading south from the Big Rock area to warn motorists of pedestrians on the roadway.
20. Winter research item: The Commission requests any further input regarding new uses/repurposing of the bathhouse. Background: Because the changing areas are reported to be used rarely; possible new uses discussed have been a snack bar, an open-air pavilion with tables, etc., while maintaining storage for lifeguard gear in the summer and for trash cans in the winter. Please note that the Commission has concerns about health/food safety issues.
21. Winter research item: Some of the railings on the top of the bathhouse are rusted and require cleaning/painting or replacement.
22. Winter research item: The Commission requests your research about possible installation of a keypad-operated gate with a lifting or swinging arm at the main gate.
23. Timing TBD: The Commission requests repair of the main beach's jetty, which has deteriorated areas and a section which has collapsed; this must be repaired in the interest of public safety.
24. For the Spring, the Commission requests information as to whether the top of the bathhouse needs its periodic resealing.
25. For the Spring, the Commission requests a solution as to how the bathhouse shower drains' clogging can be resolved.
26. For the Spring, the Commission requests a solution as to how the clogging of the bubbler near the bathroom building can be resolved.
27. Spring: The Commission requests that mowing of the southwest Park area near the cottages be monitored.
28. Spring: The Commission requests removal or covering of graffiti that has been reported at the water's edge in the same area.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need any further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Radulski, Chairman