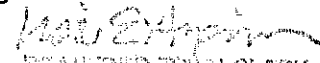


Minutes of the Parker Memorial Park Commission  
Regular Meeting of May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Joe Trapasso Community House  
Honoring Branford World War II Veterans, 46 Church St.

2023 MAY 24 A 9:32

  
TOWN CLERK

Present: Commissioners Esborn, Kovi, Masotta, and Radulski; absent: Redman. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

The minutes of the April meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections, with the motion to accept by Commissioner Esborn and seconded by Commissioner Kovi.

**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 Parks and Recreation Department.

**Correspondence:** Members of the public have been contacting Commissioners with requests regarding memorial benches (three donations are pending) and a wedding on September 8<sup>th</sup>. It was reported before the previous meeting that the rear door at the men's side of the bathhouse won't close; Commissioner Radulski investigated and found that the hinge and/or frame is rusted to the extent that the door won't close, and will follow up with the Parks and Recreation Department for action. Also, a reading program has requested access to the Park on July 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 2:30 PM, with the following date as the rain date; Commissioner Radulski will issue any parking passes needed, once further information has been received. Additionally, the Commission received a request that the use of an electric mower for Park use be investigated; Commissioner Masotta is to follow up with Director Palluzzi on that possibility. Finally, the Commission discussed a request that the large lights in the Park be modified so that they can be turned off for special events such as the Town fireworks; Commissioner Radulski is to research that topic.

**Old Business:**

1. The most recent update to the 'punchlist' of requests for maintenance/repair items, sent to Alex Palluzzi, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, was reviewed in April for Spring/Summer action items. The punchlist items have been removed from the body of the minutes, and the remainder of the action items below reflect items within the Commission's area of responsibility.
2. In November, the Commission decided to allow walking of dogs in the Park and decided to allow it starting October of 2023 and allowing it to run every year from October 15<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>. As noted previously, the groundwork needs to be laid to make this change – public announcements (specifically, that all dogs must remain leashed while in the Park and that no dogs, per Town ordinances, are allowed on Town beaches at any time), changing the signs in and around the Park, and pursuing the installation of a walking path from the area of the bocce court to Big Rock and from Big Rock up to the cottages' parking area. Commissioner Radulski reported that he, Commissioner Redman, Alex Palluzzi of the Parks and Recreation Department, and Gary Zielinski of the Public Works Department walked

from the FitzGerald house to the bocce court and reviewed the possible path route and the sight lines for drivers, with the idea of how to make pedestrian/car interactions safer. It was decided that the Park Commission would trim foliage to clear the sight lines (with the Rec Dept. and/or PWD to clean up the cut foliage) and that the PWD would start on path construction, painting the roadway to warn of pedestrians and/or remind drivers of the speed limit, and also erect several signs to warn of pedestrians on the roadway. Installing a speed bump/hump was discussed, and the initial thought was that the geometry/curves of the roadway wouldn't allow for safe installation of same.

### **New Business:**

1. The gate guards and other interested parties met to discuss the new season at Commissioner Esborn's home on May 8<sup>th</sup>. There were several topics discussed, including (A) introducing the idea of allowing dogs into the Park on a seasonal basis, (B) having Town Hall issue stickers which would adhere to the inside of windshields, (C) requesting that police patrols continue to drive through the Park on their evening patrols, and (D) several smaller items. Commissioner Radulski is to follow up on those items and report back to the Commission regarding them.
2. Commissioner Radulski in April distributed a new key from the Recreation Department to each commissioner for the men's room, women's room, and gate chain. Commissioner Esborn reported at this meeting that he'd been told that new locks and keys were being put into use so that there'd be a Town-wide key for all gates and that the Commission should stand by to hear more. The idea of daisy-chaining the old and new locks was discussed.
3. Commissioner Redman noted that she'd recently observed pedestrians walking in the roadway near Big Rock and that action will be needed to prevent an accident between vehicles and pedestrians.
4. Several Commissioners noted that they'd noticed missing or damaged fence rails near the main entrance and the Playscape – Commissioner Radulski is to refer those to the Parks and Recreation Department for action and add that action item to the punchlist.

### **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 operability of the lights at the main gate and dock are being checked by Commissioner Radulski periodically, and he's been adjusting the timing of the lights at the main gate to reflect the time of sunset.
3. Commissioner Radulski reported at a previous meeting that he'd heard from several members of the public that the main beach appears to have a steep dropoff; he stated that he'll investigate this at the next convenient low tide and report his observations to the Commission.

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, 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 Parker Memorial Park, at the bench near bathroom building, depending on the weather forecast; the alternative location will be the Joe Trapasso Community House Honoring Branford World War II Veterans, 46 Church St.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Radulski, Chairman