

Meeting Minutes of the Parker Memorial Park Commission, Town of Branford, Connecticut
Regular Meeting of December 20th, at the Joe Trapasso Community House Honoring Branford
World War II Veterans, 46 Church St.

Present: Commissioners Kovi, Masotta, Radulski, and Redman; absent: Commissioner Esborn. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes of the November meeting were reviewed and approved, with the motion to accept by Commissioner Masotta 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 (P&RD).

Correspondence: Members of the public have been contacting Commissioners with requests regarding memorial benches (one donation is apparently pending delivery, one has recently been received and installed).

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, has been removed from the body of the minutes, and the remainder of the action items below generally reflect items within the Commission's area of responsibility.
2. Regarding walking of dogs in the Park, refer to previous minutes. The January meeting is to include a discussion with representatives of Animal Control, Police, P&RD, the Park guards, and the First Selectman; that was moved from this month's meeting due to the unavailability of several of the needed attendees. For the meeting, Commissioner Radulski is to research whether the Park's dog-related rules are based on Town ordinances or Commission rules.
3. Commissioner Redman noted in May 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. Per a request from the Commission, the Department of Public Works (DPW) is installing a pedestrian path off of the road; next month, the Commission is to discuss what signage should be used to discourage pedestrians from walking in the road. In addition, Commissioner Radulski will check on the regrowth of vegetation that was trimmed this Spring and remove regrowth as necessary.
4. Issuance of parking stickers was discussed again; Commissioner Radulski has contacted Town Hall as to how it might be advantageous to residents to have the stickers be configured to be adhered inside windshields, specifically on the driver's side, instead of on bumpers, and was told that that process is already under discussion at Town Hall.
5. It was discussed previously whether gate guards should be moved off their duties on rainy days and reassigned to fair-weather days to then assist the guard at the gate by patrolling the Park; that is to be discussed by Commissioner Radulski with Director Palluzzi for 2024.
6. 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.
7. The Commission has discussed a request that the large lights in the Park be modified so that they can be turned off (or dimmed) for special events such as the Town fireworks and Harbor Lights; Commissioner Radulski is to research that topic.
8. Several Parkgoers have reported that they've seen animals in trash cans and suggested that tops be installed on the cans; Commissioner Radulski has contacted Director Palluzzi regarding that request and is awaiting a response.

9. A Parkgoer requested installation of an additional baby swing; Commissioner Radulski is to address that with Director Palluzzi.
10. There appear to be fewer recycling boxes in the Park during the Summer; Commissioner Radulski is to address that with Director Palluzzi and check the bathhouse for extra boxes.
11. During a recent beach closure, a parkgoer remarked that the East Shore District Health Department closure signage was not very prominent, and Commissioner Radulski contacted Director Palluzzi with a request that the Recreation Department and ESDHD work together to produce more and more-prominent signs for the public in the future.
12. An inquiry was received as to why the dumpster was removed from the parking lot near Big Rock and placed in the main parking lot – Commissioner Redman has followed up with the P&RD and the waste-removal company and reported at this meeting that she'd been informed that the waste-removal company's vehicles can't navigate under the wires along the road to Big Rock. Commissioner Redman is to ask the waste-removal company to find a solution and get the dumpster moved.

New Business:

1. From the punchlist, Commissioner Radulski is to keep an eye on when a hard freeze might allow a Town bucket truck to inspect the flagpole's top to determine what size of pole-mounted light fixture could be installed; and, seasonal park cleanup has been in progress.
2. It was noted that the flag now flying seems small for the height of the pole – Commissioner Radulski is to research the topic.
3. A bench donor requested that all of the memorial benches be blasted, primed, and painted.
4. The graffiti at "Little Rock" may be possible to be curbed with additional surveillance; Commissioner Radulski is to contact the Police Department to see what additional patrols and/or surveillance methods may be available.

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.

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday, January 17th, 2024, 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 St.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Radulski, Chairman

RECEIVED
 2024 JAN -2 A 10:09
 BRANFORD TOWN CLERK