

Meeting Minutes of the Parker Memorial Park Commission, Town of Branford, Connecticut; Regular Meeting of April 17th,
at the Joe Trapasso Community House Honoring Branford World War II Veterans, 46 Church St.

Present: Commissioners Esborn, Kovi, Masotta, Radulski, and Redman; absent: None. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and approved, with the motion to accept by Commissioner Masotta and seconded by Commissioner Esborn. It was noted that there was no February meeting.

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.

Correspondence: Members of the public have been contacting Commissioners with requests regarding memorial benches (more donations/deliveries are pending).

New Business: The following items were reported:

1. An AED has been installed at the bathhouse by the main beach.
2. The Commission will be consulting with the gate guards on Monday, May 6th, starting at 5 PM, rain date May 8th. Matt is to review his files for instructions to the gate guards to update.
3. The water is to be turned on within the next two weeks.
4. The Town fireworks will be launched from the Town Dock, and are scheduled for June 22nd.
5. The P&RD is proceeding with plans to modernize the bathrooms; Joe Sepot is reported to be the architect in charge, and Commissioner Radulski is to contact him to discuss whether the storage shed/ tractor garage can be reconfigured to hold the Park's work truck.
6. The P&RD has requested a list of trees to be trimmed/removed; the Commissioners will walk through the Park to see what trees appear to need removal or trimming.

Old Business:

1. The most recent update to the 'punchlist' of requests for maintenance/repair items, sent to Alex Palluzzi, Director of the PRD, 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. To recap the January meeting's events regarding the Park's enforcement of the "No dogs" policy: That meeting was attended by a number of personnel who serve as gate guards, and also Branford Police Department ('BPD') Captain David Galdenzi; while the First Selectman and representatives from Animal Control and the (P&RD) were scheduled to attend, they did not. It was established by reference to Town ordinances that enforcement actions are mandated. The Commission requested that two actions be taken: (1) The presence of a uniformed BPD officer on May 11 starting at 10 AM (the first day of gate-guard presence in the Park this year) in case of any dogwalkers who refuse to leave the Park when requested by the gate guard to do so and (2) The regular presence of uniformed BPD officers to drive through the Park's road and inform dogwalkers that they would need to leave the Park or would face the issuance of a summons with a fine. The Commission is to publicize the new actions via press releases and also research the topic of the definition of "service animals" – the U.S. Dept. of Justice was mentioned as having clear guidelines. Captain Galdenzi noted that there were few records of dog-related calls to the BPD, and the Commission and the gate guards present agreed that infractions would be reported to the BPD in the future.
3. Commissioner Redman noted at a previous meeting that she's seen 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 by the road and has completed the work. The Commission has discussed what signage should be used to discourage pedestrians from walking in the road, including a possible "Blind Spot" warning sign, and a "Children Playing" sign, and it was determined at this meeting that Commissioner Radulski is to request signage input from the Town Engineer and the DPW; it was thought that a brown background, as used in wilderness/historical/tourist areas, might be appealing and persuasive, versus the standard yellow/black color scheme. Commissioner Radulski has requested input from both parties. The Commission also discussed dedicating the walkway while announcing stepped-up no-dog enforcement, and Commissioner Radulski has followed up with the Town and media outlets on planning for that. Also related to pedestrian safety, Commissioner Radulski will check this Spring on the regrowth of vegetation that was trimmed last Spring and will remove regrowth as necessary.
4. Issuance of parking stickers: Commissioners Radulski and Redman are continuing to follow up with the Tax Office. Commissioner Redman reported at this meeting that she'd been told that the office's effort to

procure stickers for inside the windshield had been abandoned for now and that the traditional type of sticker would be issued for the next two years.

5. Moving gate guards off their duties on rainy days and reassigning them to fair-weather days to then assist the guard at the gate by patrolling the Park 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 bring that topic to the attention of Town Hall.
8. Several Parkgoers have reported that they've seen animals in trash cans and suggested that tops be installed on the cans; Commissioner Radulski is discussing that with Director Palluzzi.
9. A Parkgoer requested installation of an additional baby swing; Commissioner Radulski is to address that with Director Palluzzi.
10. There appeared to be fewer recycling boxes in the Park last Summer; Commissioner Radulski is to address that with Director Palluzzi and check the bathhouse for extra boxes.
11. During a 2024 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 the previous meeting that she'd been informed that the company's vehicles can't navigate under the wires along the road to Big Rock. Commissioner Radulski has contacted the Town Engineer to have the topic researched.
13. From the punchlist, Commissioner Radulski was keeping 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; that opportunity has passed, and dry weather in the Summer might allow this inspection. Commissioner Esborn discussed a light he had, and it will be checked for its possible fitup.
14. It was noted that the flag now flying seems small for the height of the pole – Commissioner Masotta reported at this meeting that he'd found a source which reported that the proper size for the flagpole in the Park (estimated to be 40 feet tall) should be approximately ten feet by six feet.
15. A bench donor requested that all of the memorial benches be blasted, primed, and painted.
16. The graffiti at "Little Rock" may be possible to be curbed with additional surveillance; Commissioner Radulski has contacted 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, May 15th, 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 either the Joe Trapasso Community House Honoring Branford World War II Veterans, 46 Church Street, or the Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Radulski, Chairman

RECEIVED
2024 APR 30 A 9 16
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK
No. 24-1001