

AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING of the PARKER MEMORIAL PARK COMMISSION

Town of Branford, CT, Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 7:00 PM, at the

Joe Trapasso Community House Honoring Branford World War II Veterans, 46 Church St., Branford, CT

Call to order; roll call; call for new agenda items; review of previous minutes; public comment; budget report
Correspondence and communications, including review of function dates (weddings, etc.), requests for special access to the Park and the possibility of charging fees for parking access, memorial/commemorative donation of items (**benches**, plantings, etc.), **the trial of food-vendor operations in the Park and how to proceed on 2023, including publicizing the availability of food trucks**, review of the updated 'punch list' sent to Director Palluzzi and discussion of the status of completion of turning off the water supply.

Old Business – per the October minutes

1. Actions for advertisement of and enforcement of prohibited activities: **Sturdy “No dogs” sign for Big Rock (see Item 2.e. below).**
2. Reports of meetings/communications with other Departments (Police, Recreation, Public Works, Fire, etc.), and any notes on the following:
 - a. Road/margin condition, width at flagpole area; (Deferred: delineating parking spaces in the main parking lot with lime or another marking material; installing a gate at the main entrance.
 - b. Tree condition and trimming, **including ‘volcano’-type mulching** which will damage bark and kill the tree; branch condition/interference in the cherry trees near the Playscape.
 - c. Equipment/facilities: **Flagpole illumination**; the operability of the drains in the bathrooms, water fountains; and showers; bathhouse railings’ rust; grills and picnic tables, especially what grill repairs (via welding) can be performed in-house over the Winter; bathrooms (interior and exterior lights, etc.); checks of swings’ fittings for soundness; bocce court (condition, and checks for any privately owned items); repainting of the “No Parking” lines on the Town Dock (this area is outside the Commission’s area of responsibility but this matter is important to the Park’s work crew, for access to trash cans; **fence maintenance**; **seasonal Park cleanup (including of leaves on the deck of the bathhouse and in other parts of the Park)**; **repair of the men’s room screen door**, elimination of erosion on the north sledding hill, etc.
 - d. Seawalls/walls/jetty; **sidewalk at the jetty area**; beach profile (reported by parkgoer to be “too steep”).
 - e. Reports of any vandalism/mischief or other ordinance infractions, including any dumping; discussion of any recent issues at the west shore of the Park by the jumping area at ‘Little Rock’; removal of “No Dogs”/“No Smoking” sign at Big Rock.
 - f. Lights’ operability – main gate, Dock, by the Fitzgerald house, and by the bathhouse.
 - g. Park hours and signage regarding the Park hours; **addition of a “Children Playing” sign near the cottages** (complete: “No bikes off paved surfaces” near west edge of Park near the cottages).
 - h. Other Departments’/organizations’ events in the Park, including Harbor Lights luminaries (now set for a possible evening powerboat parade and the next Branford River Parade (Branford Land Trust, for non-powered craft).
3. Updating/reposting of Town and Recreation Department’s websites with information concerning the Park, entry rules, resident stickers, etc.; also, distribution of Park rules with this year’s resident stickers.
4. Commissioners to keep a watch for Canada goose droppings, and also pet droppings, which may be posing a health hazard.
5. Discussion of charging Park-access fees to persons not having parking permits.

New Business: As introduced

Discussion of Date, Time, and Location of the December Meeting (November 16th, 7 PM, conditions permitting: the same venue, 46 Church St., Branford, CT); adjournment

The Parker Memorial Park Commission requests that appropriate action (repair, remediation, etc.) be taken regarding the following items:

1. 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.
2. Repair of the concrete on the railing walkway right at 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.
3. Repair (if possible, likely by welding) or replacement of any deteriorated installed metal grills. These must be repaired in the interest of public safety.
4. Installation of a "No Dogs" sign at the Big Rock parking lot. A parkgoer 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, as well as a well-secured signpost.
5. Inspection and remediation of 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).
6. Removal of phragmites growing at the north part of the Big Rock beach, because it's significantly reduced the useable area of the beach. Some clearing was performed earlier in 2022, but the phragmites is growing back.
7. Removal or covering of graffiti that has been reported at the water's edge near Big Rock.
8. Completion of the repairs to the screen door of the men's bathroom (hardware cloth is needed on both sides of the recently installed screen material).
9. Removal of any mulch piled close to tree trunks, which can cause rotting of the bark and (eventually) the death of the affected tree.
10. 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.
11. Cleaning/painting or replacement of any rusted railings on the top of the bathhouse.
12. Painting of any rusted/corroded areas on the Parks' decorative benches.
13. Research item: A solution as to how the bathhouse shower drains' clogging can be resolved; at the present time, the issue is being addressed by cleaning out the system after clogging has occurred.
14. Research item: A solution as to how the clogging of the bubbler near the bathroom building can be resolved; at the present time, the issue is being addressed by cleaning out the system after clogging has occurred.
15. Research item (if heavy congestion resumes in the Summer): 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 action, if action proves to be feasible.
16. Research item (if a cost-effective solution can be found): The Commission requests your research about possible installation at the main gate of a keypad-operated gate with a lifting or swinging arm.

Also, the Commission requests information as to whether the top of the bathhouse needs its periodic resealing.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Radulski, Chairman

Past items – completed – for reference:

1. Summer: The Commission requests installation of a sign stating, “No bicycles off paved areas” on the road near the west edge of the Park near the cottages.
2. 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,
3. Fall/Winter: The Commission requests your input as to when the bathroom water will be shut off, to avoid freezing.
4. 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.
5. Fall/Winter: The Commission requests removal of the brush and dirt piled in the small turnout just west of the bathroom building.
6. 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.
7. Fall/Winter: The Commission requests removal of a PVC pipe that’s at the northwest part of the Big Rock beach.
8. Winter: The Commission requests that a “No Dogs” sign be installed at the handicapped parking spaces near the bathroom building
9. 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.
10. Winter: The Commission requests that a “No Smoking” sign be added at the handicapped parking area near the bathrooms.
11. 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.
12. Summer: The Commission requests that the east-facing light on the bathroom building be restored to service.