

Meeting Minutes of the Parker Memorial Park Commission, Town of Branford, Connecticut  
Special Meeting of January 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Joe Trapasso Community House Honoring Branford World  
War II Veterans, 46 Church St.

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Present: Commissioners Esborn, Kovi, Masotta, Radulski, Redman; absent: none. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

The minutes of the previous meeting, November, were reviewed.

**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. Alex Palluzzi, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, could not attend.

**Correspondence:** Members of the public have been contacting Commissioners with requests regarding memorial benches (two donations are pending) and a wedding on September 8<sup>th</sup>. A member of the public reported that the "No Parking" sign at the flagpole's turning circle has been removed from the ground, and also that there were questions as to why the wooden seats and backs on many of the benches have been removed; Commissioner Radulski is to follow up with Director Palluzzi and the Department of Public Works as to the plans for both.

**Old Business:**

1. The most recent update to the 'punchlist' of requests for maintenance/repair items, sent to Director Palluzzi, was reviewed with Director Palluzzi via phone conversation during the October meeting. 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. There are several utility-furnished lights not working (see the October 2021 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 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 Redman noted at the November meeting that a requested road sign is still needed, "Slow Down - Children Playing" by the cottages.
4. Regarding a request forwarded by Director Palluzzi in October from a resident that the Commission have a kayak-storage rack installed in the Park near Big Rock, the Commission considered the issue of the space available there, as well as the security of the area, and decided not to proceed with investigating the ways and means necessary to move that request forward. Commissioner Radulski informed Director Palluzzi of the decision and will close out this item.
5. 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>. 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 has discussed the walkway idea with the Town's Engineering Department and the Department of Public Works and will update the Commission as the plans move forward.

6. In November, the Commission discussed Big Rock beach, specifically that phragmites have encroached greatly on the amount of beach available, Commissioner Radulski has contacted the Town Engineer's office to request its input as to the path forward and will update the Commission as the plans move forward.

**New Business:** None introduced, as this was a Special Meeting.

**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. 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 in 2022; the Commission discussed this and had no objection to allowing parking after sunset, so long as the parade organizers provide security. Nothing further has been heard by Commissioner Radulski about this.
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, February 15<sup>th</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 the Joe Trapasso Community House Honoring Branford World War II Veterans, 46 Church St.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Radulski, Chairman