

**Meeting Minutes of the Parker Memorial Park Commission**  
**Town of Branford, Connecticut**  
**Special Meeting of September 12, 2019**  
**At Canoe Brook Center, 11 Cherry Hill Road, Branford**

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Present: Commissioners Esborn, Masotta, O'Neill, Radulski, and Redman (Absent: None).  
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

**Public Comments:** Mr. Walt Romblad, head of the work crew at the Park, was present, and stated that he'd received a recommendation from a member of the public that the path from the parking area (leading from the bench near the bathrooms down to the bathhouse) be improved to make it easier for Parkgoers with limited mobility to travel on it; Commissioner Radulski is to refer that to the Town Engineer for review. Mr. Romblad also stated that the bathrooms might need new urinals and toilets, and also offered that he thought the bathhouse might benefit from removal of some of the changing cubicles, and that is also to be referred by Commissioner Radulski to the Town Engineer to determine if that would be feasible, vis-à-vis the structural integrity of the roof. Commissioner Radulski also stated that he'd request of the Town Engineer that the bathroom building be surveyed for physical soundness, given its age. Alex Palluzzi, Director of Parks and Recreation, also attended the meeting and informed the Commissioners of progress/developments regarding the Park's staff, infrastructure, and maintenance. One item he mentioned were that the painting of the bathhouse had been completed. Commissioner Radulski asked the Director that the presence of fallen leaves in the Fall be closely monitored in order to minimize die-off of grass, and the Commission has also informed the Director that several grills appear to need painting/maintenance. Finally, Commissioner Palluzzi reported that he'd received a request to monitor and, if necessary, repair the wooden components of the bocce court.

**Budget:** No report (the Commission's funds have been transferred to the Town's Board of Recreation).

**Correspondence:** Members of the public have been contacting Commissioners with various requests/input regarding memorial benches and event dates. Two of the "Bench 75" DuMor benches have been donated and installed this Summer, and a third is likely to be received shortly; Director Palluzzi was informed of this at this meeting, and Commissioner Radulski has contacted Mr. Gary Zielinski with the same information. No other correspondence was noted.

**Old Business:**

1. Regarding the deteriorated road surface of some parts of the Park road, discussed at previous meetings, the Commission has recommended to the Town that a large section of road should be entirely repaved. At this meeting, a commissioner described the road condition as "horrible". History/background: The road was inspected by Selectman Cosgrove during the walkthrough of April 11, 2018, and again on May 23, 2019. Repaving is recommended to reduce/eliminate hazards to pedestrians and thereby reduce Town liability; some spot patching has been performed.
2. Regarding dead/deteriorated trees, the latest update is that a large oak fell into the traffic turnaround near the flagpole, bringing down branches on a beech tree inside

the circle (which may best be taken down) and many electrical wires; also, it's been noted that the locust trees along Harbor Street should be trimmed of dead branches. It was noted that several trees have been removed recently, including one at the northern end of the large ledge north of the bathhouse. History/background: Commissioners surveyed the Park in December 2018, after leaves were off the trees, to check for trees and limbs presenting danger to the public (at a previous meeting, two trees (the one at the northern end of the large ledge north of the bathhouse, and another along the drive southwest of the bocce court) were noted to be presenting such issues). Commissioner Radulski generated a map detailing the issues noted during the walkthroughs and tendered a copy to Director Palluzzi at a previous meeting to pass on to the First Selectman.

3. The permanent fencing that's been installed at the sides of the entrance road, from the inside of the main gate to the second pedestrian walkway, requires some additional work, and Director Palluzzi has been informed of those items. One item is to close up the gaps between the main-gate pillars and the easternmost ends of the fencing, perhaps by having thorn bushes planted in the appropriate spots; another is that some parts of the fence have sharp, bare wires sticking up, and Director Palluzzi was requested a previous meeting to have this remedied. Commissioner Esborn has recommended nailing smooth lath strips over the exposed areas.
4. The smoking ban was discussed. Commissioner Redman is to request of the PWD that a "No Smoking" sign be added at the handicapped parking area near the bathrooms.
5. A "No Dogs" sign is needed on Cove Terrace the north-central (pedestrian) entrance to the Park and at the handicapped parking spaces near the bathroom building. Commissioner Redman has been requested to ask that of the PWD and will report back when it's been requested, and installed.
6. The issue of whether Parker Memorial Park Drive is a Town road is still open, with the discussion to continue after further research.
7. For memorial benches, Commissioner Radulski has been communicating to potential donors which benches are the correct ones to order (in the past, Belson Renaissance with ipe-wood slats; see the Public Comment notes of November for newer information – Bench 57 from DuMor). It was determined at the April meeting that center armrests would be optional. The Commissioners will set a date and time to walk through the Park and inspect all benches.
8. The seawall along the main beach is missing some mortar and requires repointing, there's a gap in the jetty on the beach, and other seawall maintenance is needed throughout the Park, especially in the Park's space near the privately owned cottages. It was also noted that there's 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).
9. The Branford River Parade for canoes/kayaks/stand-up paddleboards, organized by the Branford Land Trust, will be on October 12<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner Radulski announced.

**New Business:** None

**Continuing Items to Monitor:**

1. The area near the bocce court has been reported at several times to have a number of personally owned items near it. Commissioner Radulski is to continue to communicate to the persons using the area that only Town-furnished items are allowed to remain in the area when bocce-court users are not there.
2. The PWD has been requested to place a sign to notify drivers of the in-Park speed bump.
3. It was noted at a previous meeting that the Town Dock at the south end of Harbor Street is often trash-strewn and has many weeds growing; while much of this has been corrected, Commissioner Radulski is to track this, and report any recurrence of this to the Board of Parks and Recreation's Chairman Criscuolo and Director Palluzzi for their attention.
4. Regarding the presence of tents/canopies on the main beach, the Commission has set the following limits on tents (which are prohibited by Town ordinance), canopies, and "sun shades": Structures are allowed to be five feet high or less, with a continuous fabric structure touching the sand (and with no "legs" holding up a canopy surface), and covering fewer than sixty square feet.
5. It was reported at a previous meeting that a park goer stated to a gate guard that the rules posted online about entry for non-sticker holders are incorrect; Commissioner Redman reported that she'd checked the online information and found all information to be correct at that point in time. The Commission will check this periodically.
6. Commissioner Redman announced at the November meeting that the Branford Garden Club would be assisting with beautification of the circles at the Town Dock and the flagpole and with the area along the east side of Harbor Street south of the southernmost private residence down to the Dock parking area. This work has been in progress.
7. Dumping of yard waste has been noted at the north-central part of the Park, at the 'back' entrance by which pedestrians can enter the Park; there is a "No Dumping" sign there, and this area is to be monitored by the Commission.
8. The lights at the main gate and dock are now operational and are to be checked by commissioners periodically.

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday, October 10, at Canoe Brook Center, 11 Cherry Hill Road, Branford.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Radulski, Chairman