

Meeting Minutes of the Parker Memorial Park Commission
Meeting of October 12, 2017

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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. The minutes of the August 10 meeting were accepted unanimously by the Commissioners present, with the motion to approve ('MTA') by Commissioner O'Neill and the motion to second ('MTS') by Commissioner Masotta.

Public Comments: No members of the public were present to speak; the period was held open by unanimous vote, with the MTA by Commissioner Esborn and the MTS by Commissioner O'Neill.

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. No other correspondence was noted. It was reported that, after public school started and gate guards were no longer in place at the Park entrance, the Park was very busy on several days and that having gate guards in place to enforce the possession of having resident parking stickers would have reduced the crowding in the main parking lot. The Commission will review this going forward.

Old Business:

1. [not discussed – to be reviewed over the Winter] Regarding dead/deteriorated trees in the Park, the Chairman has requested that the Town's Tree Warden walk through the Park to inspect for unsafe tree/limb conditions, (refer to previous minutes for more information regarding tree care/removal). The Chairman and Commissioner Masotta performed a walkthrough in the Spring. Some dead trees have been removed from the highest part of the Park. Mr. Romblad is to contact Mr. Zielinski of the Department of Public Works ('DPW') regarding any further tree-related issues
2. Regarding the deteriorated road surface of some parts of Parker Memorial Park Drive, discussed at previous meetings, the Commission has recommended to the Town that a large section of road should be entirely repaved. Repaving is recommended to reduce/eliminate hazards to pedestrians and thereby reduce Town liability; the Chairman is to discuss this with the Recreation Director and DPW.
3. The Park's benches were discussed (refer to previous minutes for details). One has been installed recently (by the Kroll family) and another is to be installed shortly.
4. Commissioner O'Neill stated that she has sent a thank-you note to the school's ESL group for performing its annual day of helping with Park clean-up work in June.
5. Permanent fencing is still to be installed at the north and south sides of the entrance road, from the inside of the main gate to the second pedestrian walkway. The first walkway has been abandoned and painted over to obliterate it. Snow fencing has been installed on a temporary basis. Commissioner O'Neill is to follow up with the Recreation Department as to when the permanent fence is going to be installed (it's to be a split-rail fence, with green

plastic-clad wire mesh installed on it to prevent children from climbing through it, in the same style as is installed in the Playscape).

6. The smoking ban was discussed. Commissioner O'Neill has followed up with the Department of Public Works and gotten a new sign installed at the main entrance.
7. Regarding the presence of tents/canopies on the main beach, the Commission is reviewing what limits to set on tents (which are prohibited by Town ordinance), canopies, and "sun shades" and umbrellas. The initial takeaway is that structures five feet high and shorter, with a continuous fabric structure touching the sand (and with no "legs" holding up a canopy surface), and covering less than sixty square feet, would be allowed. The Commission is to discuss this further.
8. The Land Trust's Canoe/Kayak Branford River Parade took place on September 16th; some adjustments (such as landing on the main beach if the event takes place after Labor Day) are to be discussed for the next Parade.

New Business: The issue of whether Parker Memorial Park Drive is a Town road was discussed, with the discussion to continue after further research. Also, having a "No Parking" sign installed on the first bend on Park Drive (near the bocce court) was discussed. In addition, the Commission discussed (with the Chairman to distribute to the Commission the previous rules sheet for review/comment) whether to eliminate the entry of "guest" vehicles on Summer weekends and Summer holidays due to higher volumes of Park usage. Finally, whether commercial concerns can launch watercraft at Big Rock beach was discussed, and is to be discussed further.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM; the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 7 PM, at Branford Fire Headquarters, 45 North Main Street.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matt Radulski, Chairman