

RECEIVED

2019 JAN 22 A 9:33

Parker Memorial Park Commission
Special Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2019
Held at Fire Headquarters, 45 North Main Street, Branford

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Present: Commissioners Esborn, Masotta, O'Neill, and Radulski (Absent: Redman). The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously, with the motion to approve ('MTA') by Commissioner Esborn and the motion to second ('MTS') by Commissioner Masotta.

Public Comments: There were no members of the public present.

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.

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. The road was inspected by Selectman Cosgrove during the walkthrough of April 11. Repaving is recommended to reduce/eliminate hazards to pedestrians and thereby reduce Town liability; some spot patching has been performed. Commissioner Radulski is to contact Mr. Cosgrove for action by Town departments and/or contractors; the Commission noted that this work may be funded under the next Fiscal Year's budget if no funds remain in the budget for the present Fiscal Year.
2. Regarding dead/deteriorated trees, the Commissioners surveyed the Park in December, after leaves were off the trees, to check for trees and limbs presenting danger to the public. At the November meeting, two trees (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 an issue. Mr. Alex Palluzzi, Director of Parks and Recreation, mentioned at the October meeting that a tree near the bathrooms is slated for removal shortly, and Commissioner Radulski mentioned at the November meeting that he'd seen that the tree has been taken down. Commissioner Radulski is to send information to the First Selectman regarding the trees/branches identified as presenting hazards to parkgoers.
3. Permanent fencing has been installed at the sides of the entrance road, from the inside of the main gate to the second pedestrian walkway. Commissioner Masotta is to follow up with the Public Works Department ('PWD') regarding closing 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. In addition, it was reported that some parts of the fence have sharp, bare wires sticking up, and Commissioner Masotta is to request suitable action to remedy this, as well.
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 spaces near the bathroom building.

5. A "No Dogs" sign is needed at 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.
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. 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; the area was inspected by Selectman Cosgrove during the walkthrough. Mr. Palluzzi stated at a previous meeting that he'd have the dumped materials removed, and Commissioner Radulski stated that he'd installed a "No Dumping" sign at the south end of Cove Terrace in order to allow straightforward enforcement. This was noted by Commissioner Radulski to be an important issue for the Fall yard-cleaning season.
8. For memorial benches, Commissioner Radulski will communicate to PWD which benches are the correct ones to install (in the past, Belson Renaissance with ipe-wood slats; see the Public Comment notes of November for newer information); it was discussed that some benches recently installed may not be in conformance with these guidelines. The Commissioners will set a date and time to walk through the Park and inspect all benches.
9. Regarding special permission for non-sticker holders to enter the Park, the Commission discussed methods to assist the gate guards in checking permission and will discuss further at future meetings, with a conclusion to be reached before April 2019. Commissioner Radulski is to prepare drafts of a pass to use.
10. The seawall along the main beach is missing some mortar and requires repointing; Commissioner O'Neill contacted the PWD and request that the repairs be performed (this may have been completed; the Commission's December walkthrough of the Park didn't reveal if it had, as beach sand deposited during a recent storm was covering the areas in question).
11. Mr. Alex Palluzzi, Director of Parks and Recreation, was informed at a previous meeting that the two decorative lamps on the Dock are not operating at night. Commissioner Radulski checked just prior to this meeting and noted that they're not operational; in a discussion with Mr. Palluzzi prior to this meeting, Mr. Palluzzi noted that the Department of Public Works ('DPW') has a bucket truck which would afford easy change out of the lights, and Commissioner Radulski is to contract the DPW. The lights at the main gate are also not operational, and Commissioner Radulski is to check with Walt Romblad, chief of the Park work crew, for any information he may have.
12. At the October meeting, Mr. Palluzzi was made aware that leaf cleanup will be needed this Fall in order to keep grass from being killed off, especially in the area of the picnic benches near the stone escarpment and along the Park's boundary with Harbor Street. Commissioner Radulski checked in Mr. Palluzzi before this meeting and was informed that some leaf removal has taken place; Commissioner Radulski will monitor any further leaf buildup.
13. 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.
14. Commissioner Redman noted at the November meeting that the "No Dogs Allowed" sign at the main entrance to the Park is rusted and should be cleaned up or replaced.

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 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. Commissioner Radulski is to keep an eye on the area and report to the Commission.
2. The PWD will be requested to place a sign to notify drivers of the speed bump, with no action as of this meeting; the Commission will follow up next Spring, as the speed bumps were removed this Fall.
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; 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. See the thirteenth "Old Business" item above for updated information.
4. 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 has been 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 fewer than sixty square feet, would be allowed. Commissioner Radulski is to communicate this in writing to Mr. Palluzzi for him to pass that information to the lifeguards, and to ensure that Mr. Palluzzi has a copy of the gate-guards rules to pass to the lifeguards.
5. It was reported that a park goer stated to a gate guard that the rules posted online about entry (specifically, no weekend entry for non-sticker holder) are incorrect; Commissioner Redman reported that she'd checked that and found all information to be correct. The Commission will check this periodically.
6. 2019 is the Town's official 375th anniversary year, and some events might focus on the Park.

The public-comment period was closed by a vote, with the motion to approve ('MTA') by Commissioner Masotta and the motion to second ('MTS') by Commissioner Esborn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37PM; the next meeting is to be held on Thursday, February 14, 2019, at 7 PM, at Branford Fire Headquarters, 45 North Main Street, Branford.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Radulski, Chairman