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**Meeting Minutes of the Parker Memorial Park Commission  
Special Meeting of April 11, 2019, Held at Canoe Brook Center**

2019 APR 29 A 10:35

Present: All Commissioners (Esborn, Masotta, O'Neill, Redman, and Radulski) (Absent: none). The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, with the motion to approve by Commissioner Redman and the motion to second by Commissioner O'Neill.

**Public Comments:** Alex Palluzzi, the Town's Director of Recreation, was present, and he discussed old business and agenda items (fence maintenance, park equipment, Spring cleanup, worker assignments and grounds maintenance (the crew is to start on April 21<sup>st</sup>), including filling a sinkhole that's appeared this Spring on the harbor-front on Park property in the southwest corner of the Park, between two of the privately owned cottage properties). He also mentioned that a tree may be planted in the Park in honor of Arbor Day, that he'd contact the fence contractor about the sharp fence wires noted in Item 3 under Old Business, below, and that the Town may place hydrangea bushes in the areas near the main gate (also mentioned in the same Item below). There were no other members of the public present, and the period was held open by vote, with the motion to keep open by Commissioner Redman and the motion to second by Commissioner Esborn.

**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. It appears that two of the "Bench 75" DuMor benches may be donated this Summer. Also, a request was received to use the Park for fitness classes, and it was decided by the Commission that the times desired would interfere with the operations of Park's grounds crew to an unacceptable extent; Commissioner Radulski is to contact the organizer with that decision. Finally, Commissioner Radulski reported that a maritime re-enactment group called 'The Crew of the Raven' may be available to appear in the Park in August. 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, 2018. Repaving is recommended to reduce/eliminate hazards to pedestrians and thereby reduce Town liability; some spot patching has been performed. Commissioners Redman and O'Neill reported that they'd met with the First Selectman, Director Palluzzi, and Gary Zielinski (the head of Public Works) and discussed this and other issues
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 a previous 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 issues). Commissioner Radulski has 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. It was noted at this meeting that the trees near the Playscape require trimming.
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 was briefed on those items during this meeting. 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 at this meeting to have this remedied.

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, if it hasn’t already been done.
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 and will report back as to whether it’s been done.
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 April 2018 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.
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 – Bench 57 from DuMor). It was determined at this meeting that center armrests would be optional. 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 has discussed methods to assist the gate guards in checking permission; Commissioner Radulski distributed drafts of a pass that Commissioners can fill out and pass on to non-sticker holders to use.
10. The seawall along the main beach is missing some mortar and requires repointing, there’s a gap in the stone jetty on the beach, and other seawall maintenance is needed throughout the Park.
11. The lights at the main gate are not operational, and Commissioner Radulski is to check with Walt Romblad, chief of the Park work crew, about the lights’ operation, and to reset the timer if possible
12. At a previous meeting, Mr. Palluzzi was made aware that leaf cleanup would be needed 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. Mr. Palluzzi stated at this meeting that the leaf removal has been completed.
13. Commissioner Redman noted at a previous meeting that the “No Dogs Allowed” sign at the main entrance to the Park is rusted and should be cleaned up or replaced, and that a metal sign on one of the concrete parking-lot blocks is damaged.

**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.

2. The PWD will be requested to place a sign to notify drivers of the in-Park speed bump this Spring.
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.
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 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.

The public-comment period was closed by a vote, with the motion to close by Commissioner Masotta and the motion to second by Commissioner Esborn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM; the next meeting is to be held on Thursday, May 9, location Canoe Brook Center, 11 Cherry Hill Road, Branford.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Radulski, Chairman