

Town of Ridgefield  
Parking Authority Regular Meeting  
Thursday, May 19, 2022 – 8:00 a.m.  
Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT  
MEETING MINUTES – APPROVED

**Members present:**

J. Wilmot, E. Burns, M. Recck

**Members absent:**

None

**Also Present:**

L. Yarrish, Parking Enforcement Agent

V. Giordano, Ridgefield Action Committee for the Environment (RACE)

Chairman Wilmot called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

1. Approval of minutes from 4/21/22. Ms. Wilmot moved, and Mr. Recck seconded, approval of minutes for 4/21/22. Motion passed 3 – 0.
2. Vincent Giordano’s Presentation on EV Charging Stations. Mr. Giordano distributed a handout to each member, entitled “The Electric Car Revolution is Underway”. He outlined the growth of EV car sales in the US, and that the country needs to prepare by installing EV charging stations. The lifetime cost of owning EVs is much lower than for ICE (internal combustion engine) vehicles due to lower fuel and maintenance costs. EV range is increasing and will continue to do so with newer models. The location of the charging station should determine whether the station type is AC Level One (3-5 miles of range/hr), AC Level Two (10-20 miles of range/hr), or DC Fast Charge (80% Charge in 10-30 minutes). Ridgefield currently has three Level Two stations on town-owned property (Town Hall, Ridgefield Playhouse, and at the Branchville Train Station). Since the one at the Branchville Station is used by commuters and is plugged in all day, this one should be a Level One station, as should the four planned for the Governor Street town owned lot. Level Two stations are best in areas that are time-limited or where users won’t be parking all day. Ms. Burns explained that the Parking Authority’s jurisdiction is limited to the Central Business District, and suggested that the planned EV stations in the Governor Street lot should be changed to Level One. Level One charging provides advantages because it uses existing electrical capacity, and provides more charging spaces at less cost. Overall, it is a less expensive solution and allows the town to recapture costs. Mr. Giordano and RACE will work on a plan to encourage private business property owners to install EV charging stations, and will speak with Jake Mueller and Rudy Marconi about the Governor Street stations. Ms. Wilmot thanked Mr. Giordano for the informative presentation. Mr. Giordano left the meeting.
3. Report from L. Yarrish. Mr. Yarrish reported that there were many time-limit signs missing so he has requested replacements from the Highway Department through L. Fernandez. He also discussed the need for installing temporary “one way” signs in buckets in the CVS lot while the DOT Main Street construction is underway involving the realignment of the intersection of Main and Prospect and the entrance to the CVS lot. The entire lot needs to be re-striped once the project is completed, but in the meantime, the one-way arrow indicators in the lot are no longer visible.

Ms. Wilmot and Mr. Yarrish will follow up to get them installed. Mr. Yarrish also observed that many of the spaces behind 440 Main Street that are reserved for tenants only are vacant much of the day. Ms. Burns will contact Bruce Beswick to report this and see if we could reduce the number of landlord only reserved spaces. He also reported a few interactions with business owners and employees who objected to being ticketed for overtime parking.

4. 34 Bailey Avenue P&Z Special Permit application. Mr. Recck and Ms. Burns attended and/or listened to the audio of the May 10 public hearing, where the PA letter wasn't read into the record but the issues raised were discussed by the applicant's attorney and members of the Commission. It was decided that there was no need to send a follow-up letter, but that the members would attend the continued public hearing on 5/24 and be available to answer any questions the Commission may have.
5. Issues at Donnelly lot re: Whip Salon and Shine Salon. The PA members then held a lengthy discussion about the issue of overtime parking by patrons of service businesses downtown. Whatever solution is created must help all service businesses that may have 4+ hour appointments, and not just two specific businesses, without hurting other businesses that rely on regular turnover of parking spaces. Ms. Wilmot brought a sample of a temporary parking permit that was created some years ago to sell to business owners for use by their patrons. It was limited to Main Street (on-street) parking, and but was abandoned, presumably because no businesses wanted to buy them. If the PA considers a similar program, it would require the agreement of the private lot owners and an amendment to the License Agreements. An alternative would be the validation of a ticket by the business owner with proof of service provided that day. This would need to be handled by L. Fernandez, rather than as an appeal to the Parking Hearing Officer. Ms. Wilmot will follow up by discussing these options with Ms. Fernandez.
6. Village Wine & Liquors – Signage Violations. The store owner has not removed his signs, despite an email sent on April 28 to the landlord indicating that they are in violation of the License Agreement and requesting that the signs be removed. The 15-minute parking sign that was placed in front of the town 30-minute sign has been moved, but all other signs, including 6 that indicate the business name and "15 minute parking" remain. Ms. Burns & Mr. Recck will follow up with the landlord and request that the signs be removed immediately as they have been notified in writing of the violation. If the signs are not removed, the only remedy the town has would be to terminate the License Agreement, which would not be in the best interest of the landlord, the tenants or customers of the CVS lot.
7. Other business. None.
8. Adjournment. E. Burns moved, and M. Recck seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:50 a.m. Motion approved 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Burns