

Town of Ridgefield
Parking Authority Special Meeting
January 17, 2023 – 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

Present: L. Yarrish, Parking Enforcement Officer

Chairman Recck called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

1. Approval of minutes from 12/15/22. Mr. Recck moved, and Ms. Wilmot seconded, approval of minutes for 12/15/22. Motion passed 3 – 0.
2. Main Street parking configuration. There have been many tickets issued for parking in a handicap space without a permit since the State DOT project rearranged them on Main Street and installed new signage. Appeals officer S. Dornfeld has received many appeals this month. The fine (which is set by CT Statute) increased from \$150 to \$250 effective in 2022, but our tickets did not show the increase, so until that change was made (just this week), the fine to be paid was \$150. Mr. Yarrish said the State is no longer painting the spaces blue – it's just signage that indicates that it is a handicap space. The Town sent out an alert via email and text to warn people about the new locations of handicap spaces, but no map was included. Mr. Recck will locate a map and have it sent out by the Town.
3. 440 Main Street parking update. Ms. Burns emailed Bruce Beswick of Willett Properties (440 Main Street) to request a change to the spaces directly behind the building to “no permit parking”. He replied that his tenants were happy with how things are going now, so he was not inclined to agree to this change. Ms. Burns will follow up with an email asking him to please tell his tenants to use the spaces designated as “landlord only” parking, in the best interest of his tenants’ customer and patrons.
4. Bailey Avenue lot update. Ms. Wilmot reported that the blocks behind Bailey’s Backyard, where the outdoor dining tent was situated, have been removed by the town and the parking spaces are now restored to use. Mr. Yarrish wondered about the Melillo van which appears to be inoperable and is parked in a space in the town lot permanently. Ms. Burns will try to find an email contact for the owner so the PA can follow up with him. Mr. Yarrish reports that the Bailey Avenue lot is full most weekdays and that employees of the nearby restaurants continue to park there and move their cars back and forth in the space to avoid being ticketed. Mr. Recck will contact Mr. Marconi about the Melillo van, and to get an update on the walkway proposed by Ms. Burns last year connecting the town Governor Street lot to Bailey Avenue. Ms. Burns will gather emails for business owners and landlords to request that they instruct their employees to park in the town Governor Street lot, which continues to be underutilized.

5. CVS/USPS lots update. Ms. Wilmot reported that the post office had installed very large signs on the back of the building saying “NO PARKING” and that violators would be towed. Mr. Recck is trying to determine what happened with the discussions regarding an agreement between the USPS and the town, since they moved the letter carriers to Danbury. The rear of the lot is being used by employees of nearby businesses, and no enforcement takes place since there is no agreement to patrol the post office lot. Mr. Recck will request a meeting with Mr. Marconi and Geoffrey Morris (ECDC) who was working on an agreement, and Ms. Wilmot will attend. The consensus of the PA was that we need information regarding how this proposal went off the rails and what needs to be done to get it back on track.
6. CBD parking regulation update. Ms. Burns discovered that the P&Z has proposed an update to the CBD parking regulations and that a public hearing was continued to tonight (1/17). It was noted that this was undertaken without any input from the Parking Authority, and Ms. Burns will follow up with the Chairman. The proposal appears to be something the PA would support, as it excludes residential uses from the reduced parking requirements in the CBD.
7. Parking fine data update. Mr. Recck did not receive any information from Ms. Fernandez, so he will ask again for the next meeting.
8. Parking Authority membership discussion. Mr. Recck reported that one individual had expressed interest in joining the PA. He emailed him and encouraged him to attend one of our meetings.
9. Adjournment. Ms. Burns moved, and Mr. Recck seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:26 a.m. Motion approved 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Burns