

Town of Ridgefield
Parking Authority Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 21, 2021 – 8:00 a.m.
Town Hall Lower Level Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT
MEETING MINUTES – APPROVED

Members present:

J. Wilmot, E. Burns, M. Recck

Members absent:

None

Chairman Wilmot called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

1. Approval of minutes. Mr. Recck made a motion to approve the minutes from August 19, 2021, seconded by Ms. Wilmot. Motion approved 3 – 0.
2. Discussion of Donnelly lot and Ridgefield Thrift Shop correspondence. Discussion of the letters and multiple emails sent to Rudy Marconi regarding volunteers' being ticketed while working at the Thrift Shop. The consensus of the PA is that it is up to the landlord (Donnelly) to provide landlord permits within the limits stated in the license agreement, and Ms. Wilmot had communicated this to First Selectman Marconi. Any volunteers who have handicap permits can park anywhere with no time limits. The newly improved municipal lot on Governor Street is a short walk from the Thrift Shop and is also available for use. It's the responsibility of the Parking Authority to ensure that there is adequate parking for customers and patrons of all downtown businesses. Moving cars during the day defeats the purpose of enforcement. Gavin Donnelly will look for additional Landlord permits for the Thrift Shop. Ms. Wilmot suggested that they be given temporary permission to use the 5 spaces designated for Fairfield County Bank employees since they are mostly unoccupied all day. Ms. Wilmot also reported there were complaints from the dentist office at 360 Main Street (Tooth Fairy Pediatric Dentistry) that their employees were receiving tickets in the Donnelly lot. The town permits for the Donnelly lot are sold out through 12/31/21. The employees working at 360 Main Street can apply for permits for the January 1- June 30 permit lottery, and/or park for free in the all-day Governor Street lot. Ms. Wilmot observed that many people seem to believe that the lots downtown are all owned by the town and should be available to the public without limits. In fact, the town owns just a part of the Bailey Avenue lot and the lot behind town hall. We have to work with the property owners to benefit all businesses downtown.
3. Update on Governor Street parking lot expansion. The lot is now completely open, with +/- 100 spaces available for all day use with no permit required. Lighting has been installed, and 4 EV charging stations will be available. Ms. Burns reported that the lot appears to be about 50-60% occupied on most weekdays, while Donnelly and Bailey Avenue lots are largely full. Ms. Burns created a flyer for distribution by the Downtown Merchants Association, which was sent by email a month or so ago. The town also posted it on various local social media. We need to continue this effort to encourage usage of the lot rather than moving cars during the day. Ms. Burns will update the flyer and it will be emailed to landlords and business owners. Ms. Wilmot volunteered to walk copies around downtown as well.
4. Melillo's Farms complaints. The owner of Melillo's has complained that employees of downtown businesses are parking all day in his 30 minute-limited spaces on the east side of his business. K. Knoche, enforcement agent, has been asked to do extra patrols on those spaces to discourage this

activity. A second complaint pertained to the +/- 12 spaces behind 426 Main Street (Tablao & Baja Cucina). Those spaces are not included in the license agreement with Urstadt Biddle Properties and are not patrolled. 426 Main Street was purchased by UBP after the original license agreement was signed. They should be included in a new agreement to be negotiated.

5. Patrol schedule and openings. Ms. Wilmot reported that K. Knoche is working 3 days/week and that L. Fernandez is advertising for an additional enforcement agent.

6. Other Business:

- a. Ms. Wilmot reported that Love Realty (378 Main Street) has installed signs that say violators will be towed. Ms. Wilmot explained that the PA was unable to reach an agreement with property owner Sandy Heaslip due to the number of landlord permits she requested exceeded the number of spaces she owns. Consequently the town is no longer doing enforcement in that lot.
- b. Mr. Marconi has indicated that he wanted to discuss pedestrian access to the town Governor Street lot with the RVNA. Some of the RVNA staff utilize the town lot, which is adjacent to their own lot. Ms. Burns indicated that there are impediments to walking from the lot to Main Street via a more direct route (not having to walk back to Governor Street) during the wintertime when the walkway between the lot and RVNA is not cleared and the snow is piled up by the plows. Ms. Wilmot will inquire with Mr. Marconi about the status of those discussions.
- c. E. Burns noted that we still have 2 vacancies on the PA. All members will consider who could be encouraged to request appointment by the Selectmen, as the PA will function more efficiently with full membership.

Adjournment. E. Burns moved, and M. Recck seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:20 a.m. Motion approved 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Burns