

Ridgefield Parking Authority

Meeting December 14, 2017

Called to order at 8:34 am

Attendance: Chris Fusaro, Jessica Wilmot, Robert Murphy, Ellen Burns and Katie Knoche.

1. Approved minutes from November 2017 meeting
2. Discussion of holiday parking suspension. In previous years after public announcements of parking time limits being suspended for the weeks around the holidays. the results were non patrons were parking in spaces opened up for holiday shoppers. Shopkeepers expressed frustration with procedure. In what was hoped to help shoppers park, dine and shop resulted in very little available spots.

Some discussion on some parking lots participating and some not would result in confusion for residents and visitors.

The selectman's office had an inquiry as to the parking suspension as did the Parking Authority . At that time the PA retracted it's statement to the Press and waited for response from merchants. The PA responded to email and requested to get a consensus from merchants at their scheduled meeting making sure that we would implement a suspension plan if so desired by the businesses. We had requested email response by December 12 so we could make the Press deadline. The PA did not get any response from emails and calls. No one attended meeting to express opinions either way.

Taking consideration of past opinions and the confusion that certain lots participate and others not Parking Authority members voted unanimously to not implement holiday parking suspensions. The reason for this decision was an assumption that no response meant the desire of businesses not to change previous year procedure.

3. Further discussion of leases for new year. Benenson Funding Corp. in touch with Co- chair Fusaro about terms. Determined a need for town attorney to communicate with Benenson Funding Corp.

4. Tenant in CVS lot had been putting up his own time limit signs during special events in town was instructed to cease and with further discussion and request with landlord the Parking Authority is changing time limits in front of the liquor in CVS lot. Using and displaying personal signage changing the town signage is a violation.
5. Request from The Donnelly family to change back the time limits from 3 to 2 hour parking on the east side of what is now The Thrift shop. While the storefronts were empty Donnelly's had agreed to longer limits. Fusaro, Wilmot and Burns all voted in favor with Robert Murphy abstaining due to conflict of interest.
6. Further discussion on permit system. Ideas are welcomed via Press release asking for opinions on moving forward through to the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:53. Motioned by J. Wilmot seconded by R. Murphy

Respectfully submitted by

Jessica Wilmot

Co chairperson

Town of Ridgefield