

Town of Ridgefield  
Parking Authority Regular Meeting  
Thursday, June 16, 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:**

Laurie Fernandez, Town of Ridgefield HR Director.

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

1. Approval of minutes from 5/19/22. Ms. Wilmot moved, and Mr. Recck seconded, approval of minutes for 5/19/22. Motion passed 3 – 0.
2. Discussion with L. Fernandez re: Recommendations from PEO Lou Yarrish. Ms. Fernandez distributed copies and presented a proposal from Mr. Yarrish to increase certain parking violation fees. The proposal included comparisons of Ridgefield parking fines versus other towns (New Milford, Danbury, Norwalk, Stamford and Darien). Ridgefield's fine (\$15 for all violations except parking in a handicapped space, which is higher and set by the State) is considerably lower than all other towns presented. Mr. Yarrish has observed various violations during his shifts and believes certain violations should generate a larger fine to discourage violations other than overtime violations. He proposes higher fines for parking in a no-parking zone, on a sidewalk, on a crosswalk, 10' from a fire hydrant and blocking a sidewalk. In an effort to "move" a car to avoid a ticket, some people are moving their vehicles forward in a space and blocking the sidewalk. Parking in a crosswalk occurs frequently on Main Street, mainly by food delivery services. Ms. Wilmot thanked Ms. Fernandez for presenting Mr. Yarrish's proposal, and asked her to convey our thanks to Mr. Yarrish for his efforts. The members will discuss the proposal at the July meeting.
3. Issues and solutions for businesses in town that may require longer parking times. Ms. Wilmot reported that she had not heard back from Erin Simmons of Shine Salon regarding her requirements for certain patrons who have longer appointments. The consensus was that Ms. Simmons should be able to work out an arrangement with her landlord (Donnelly) for an additional landlord permit to be provided to the patron during 3 hour appointments. Ms. Simmons had used them in the past but patrons did not return them. It is recommended that the patron leave their phone or keys at the salon which would be returned when the permit is returned. Since Whip Salon is not a tenant of Donnelly, it is not the PAs responsibility to request permits from Donnelly for a non-tenant. Ms. Wilmot will email Whip owner Amy Pal explaining this. Since Whip's landlord (Coury) has allocated (and marked) six spaces in front of her salon for unlimited parking (the PA does not patrol the Coury lot), she can restrict those spaces for those with long appointments, or direct those patrons to the all-day Governor Street town lot (which is just steps away from the salon), or to the 2 rows of 3-hour parking space in the Bailey Avenue lot. It was noted that another nearby salon (Pelo) has not complained about parking limits for his patrons.

4. 34 Bailey Avenue application update from May 24 Public Hearing re: P/Z inquiry for input. No further comments are required beyond the letter submitted by the PA. Members will continue to monitor the application process.
5. Village Wine & Liquors – Signage Violations. Signs are still in place. Ms. Burns will discuss the situation with First Selectman Marconi to determine what the town's options are regarding a remedy for this violation. Ms. Burns and Mr. Recck will follow up with an email to Ms. Quattrocchi and Mr. Bekovic.
6. Update: status of USPS lot. Ms. Wilmot reported that a draft sublease has been prepared and will be sent to Ms. Quattrocchi. The consensus was that the full reconfiguration and sublease is a long-term project since it involves the USPS, but that the use of the parking in the rear of the building needs to be addressed (parking within the “cage” area and outside of it) sooner rather than later, hopefully in a separate agreement.
7. Other Business: Ms. Wilmot announced that, although she wishes to remain a member of the Parking Authority, due to work demands of her business, she needs to step down as Chairman. She asked Mr. Recck to consider serving as the Chairman, and he agreed, but requested that some information (FOIA requirements, license agreements, etc.) be provided to him. Ms. Burns will provide this information to Mr. Recck. Ms. Burns made a motion to elect Mr. Recck Chairman, Ms. Wilmot seconded. Motion passed 3 – 0.
8. Adjournment. E. Burns moved, and M. Recck seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:40 a.m. Motion approved 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Burns