

Town of Ridgefield  
Parking Authority Special Meeting  
Thursday, July 28, 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:**

Lou Yarrish, Parking Enforcement Officer

Chairman Recck called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

1. Approval of minutes from 6/16/22. Ms. Wilmot moved, and Mr. Recck seconded, approval of minutes for 6/16/22. Motion passed 3 – 0.
2. Discussion of recommendations from PEO Lou Yarrish. Mr. Yarrish distributed his analysis of current parking fines compared to nearby towns. The breakdown included overtime parking, no parking zones, parking on a sidewalk, parking on a crosswalk, parking less than 10' from a fire hydrant, and blocking sidewalk. All these violations are currently \$15.00 fines in Ridgefield, whereas all are considerably higher in other towns. Mr. Yarrish proposes to leave the overtime fine at \$15.00, but to increase others to higher fines due to the greater seriousness of the violations, and to discourage this type of violation which cause safety issues as well as difficulty for those in wheelchairs and with other mobility issues. He proposes increasing the fines to \$30.00 for:
  - a) parking in a no parking zone
  - b) parking on a sidewalk
  - c) parking less than 10 feet from a fire hydrant
  - d) blocking a sidewalk

and:

\$50.00 for parking in a crosswalk

People have been parking and/or blocking sidewalks with their vehicles in particular in the Bailey Avenue lot where there is a brick sidewalk flush with the pavement. In some cases, they are moving their vehicles forward to avoid tickets while staying overtime in the same space. Ms. Burns reported she has seen pickup trucks pulled forward until their tires touch the curb next to Colby's, where the vehicle blocks half of the sidewalk. Mr. Yarrish reported that many of the offenders of parking in a crosswalk are done by food delivery services on Main Street.

The PA members discussed Mr. Yarrish's proposals, and agreed that the fines should be increased. The members combined 2 of the violations (parking on a sidewalk and blocking sidewalk) into one violation (tires or vehicle obstructing a sidewalk) with a proposed \$30.00 fine.

Ms. Burns made the following motion, which will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration and approval:

The Parking Authority recommends that the Ridgefield parking fines be increased to:

- a) \$30.00 for parking in a no parking zone
- b) \$30.00 for parking with tires or vehicle obstructing a sidewalk
- c) \$50.00 for parking with tires or vehicle on a crosswalk
- d) \$30.00 for parking within 10 feet of a fire hydrant

Motion passed 3 – 0. Mr. Yarrish left the meeting after this discussion.

3. Updates from Planning & Zoning Commission meeting for 34 Bailey Avenue regarding parking. Chairman Recck and Ms. Burns both either zoomed the meeting or listened to the recording. The primary issues that concerned some members of the P&Z included parking and the mass, aesthetics and height of the building. The sense was that the P&Z understood that the changes made to the parking requirements in the CBD had created a situation where the applicant can benefit from the reduced parking regulations without sharing their parking spaces with the public, since that is how the regulation is written. The public hearing is closed and further discussion and a vote is scheduled for their next meeting.
4. Village Wine & Liquors – Signage Violations. Signs are still in place. Ms. Burns suggested that Mr. Recck write another letter to Benenson requested that the signs be removed. Their presence is hurting other tenants in the complex, and they are unnecessary since Tequila Escape no longer has a large tent in the adjacent lot, which had caused their customers to park in the Benenson (CVS) lot in the past.
5. Discuss path options between Governor St. Municipal Lot and Bailey Avenue. Ms. Burns submitted a proposal to First Selectman Marconi on June 29<sup>th</sup> making a suggestion as to how a simple and easily installed sidewalk in 2 locations on the RVNA property would allow more direct pedestrian access from the expanded Governor Street lot and Bailey Avenue to the eastern side of the Donnelly lot. No response has yet been received. Mr. Recck will follow up with Mr. Marconi.
6. Parking Map update re: publicly available map with updated labels: Mr. Recck has been working on the CBD parking map and has prepared a simplified version to be posted on the Town website and distributed to various land use boards and commissions. The maps was reviewed and suggested corrections will be made by Mr. Recck for the next meeting.
7. Adjournment. E. Burns moved, and M. Recck seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:43 a.m. Motion approved 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Burns