

Town of Ridgefield
Parking Authority Special Meeting
Thursday, October 20, 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

Present: L. Yarrish, Parking Enforcement Officer

Chairman Recck called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

1. Approval of minutes from 8/18/22. Mr. Recck moved, and Ms. Wilmot seconded, approval of minutes for 8/18/22. Motion passed 3 – 0.
2. Comments from Wayne Addressi of Addressi Jewelers. Mr. Addressi contacted Mr. Recck and said he could not make it to the meeting. Item tabled.
3. Main Street reconstruction project parking discussion. First Selectman Marconi forwarded an email from Mike Principi of the Chez Leonard on Main Street. Mr. Principi was concerned that the “ramp” in front of 452 and 458 Main Street he uses to get his cart onto the sidewalk might be curbed with the reconstruction. Ms. Burns visited Mr. Principi and took photos. She also spoke with Joann Walsh, owner of the Silver Lining, regarding her concerns about the new parking spaces in front of her shop (470 Main) which will prevent her customers from loading and unloading consignment items. She requested that one or two spaces be limited to 15 minutes. A subsequent conversation with Charles Robbins, the town liaison with the CT DOT for the Main Street project, confirmed that the ramp will not be curbed. He indicated that it was the PA decision about time limits. Following a discussion regarding the needs of the Silver Lining and the negative impact the 2-hour parking spaces will have on the business, Ms. Burns moved, and Ms. Wilmot seconded, the following motion:

The Parking Authority designates two spaces in front of 470 Main Street (the two most southerly spaces) as 15 minute parking/loading zone. Approved 3- 0.

Ms. Burns will follow up with Mr. Marconi and Mr. Robbins about how to implement the change.

4. Governor Street to Bailey Avenue via RVNA sidewalk proposal update. Mr. Marconi stepped into the room during the meeting and reported that he has to negotiate an easement with the RVNA and that has not yet been done.
5. Proposed Parking Fine Updates. Mr. Yarrish reported that the parking violation devices have been updated for the new fines and will be imposed effective November 14, which allows for a 30 day grace period from when the Board of Selectmen approved the changes to the fines. The information was disseminated by the Town by text, email and social media.
6. Discuss USPS agreement. The possible uses of the spaces behind the Post Office is the subject of a proposed agreement between the Town, the USPS and Benenson/Postal Holdings. There were several possibilities discussed, including the use of the “cage” for all-day parking, and other spaces

to be time limited, town permit parking and/or landlord permit parking. The lot will gain some spaces on the north side of the building when the reconstruction of the Main Street entrance is completed. It was determined that a discussion should be held with Ms. Quattrocchi of Benenson to get a sense of her preferences. Mr. Recck will draft a letter to Ms. Quattrocchi for review by the PA. Ms. Burns would like to designate some of the spaces as all-day parking to accommodate employees of businesses on the west side of Main Street. There are concerns regarding the impending relocation of Deborah Ann's to 409 Main Street. Their building has 12 spaces plus one handicapped space located to the rear of the building, which are not currently under a license agreement with the Town. Ms. Burns emailed Ms. Backes to inquire if they would be interested in an agreement with the town for those spaces, and she will follow up with her once they reopen in the new space.

7. Search for new PA members. Ms. Burns reported that she asked Ms. Backes if she or her husband/partner in Deborah Ann's might be interested in serving on the PA. Ms. Wilmot had inquired in the past as well. The PA will follow up with them once they have completed their move and have settled in. Mr. Recck suggested that the Town could send out texts/emails and through social media listing the vacancies on the PA and all other appointed boards/commissions to solicit interest. He will follow up with Town Hall.
8. Town awareness and social media correspondences around parking. How can the parking rules, designations, and information about how the lots are owned and managed be disseminated to the public? The parking map is now on the town website, but additional information should be on the website – such as the fact that the majority of the parking lots are not town-owned, but are operated under agreements with property owners, highlighting the all-day free municipal lot on Governor Street, and clarifying the parking regulations. Further discussion will be held at the next meeting.
9. Adjournment. E. Burns moved, and M. Recck seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:24 a.m. Motion approved 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Burns