

Town of Ridgefield  
Parking Authority Regular Meeting  
July 19, 2023 – 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:** L. Yarrish, Parking Enforcement Officer

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

1. Approval of minutes from June 15, 2023. Mr. Recck moved, and Ms. Wilmot seconded, approval of minutes for 6/15/23. Motion passed 3 – 0.
2. Parking enforcement officer's report. Mr. Yarrish reported that the new signs for in front of Village Wines (CVS lot) and the Willett lot are in and he's waiting on the highway department to install them. This should happen soon. He has observed the parking problems in the evening in the CVS lot due to Tequila Escape patrons using so many spaces in the CVS lot. He also reported that there are some people who park in 2 spaces in the Governor Street lot, which is not patrolled since there are no time limits. It was suggested that he patrol once a day to check for this violation.
3. USPS lot discussion (Blumenthal). Mr. Marconi forwarded to Mr. Recck a letter sent to the USPS from Senator Blumenthal and Congressman Himes, requesting reconsideration of the USPS refusal to sublet some of the parking to the town. Ms. Burns will follow up with Ms. Norwitt of the ECDC.
4. CVS Lot discussion. Ms. Burns provided copies of the Benensen lot agreement and exhibits, and will make changes to reflect the 15 minute spaces (Area H) and the 4 hr limit for the planned 8 EV spaces (Area A). The amended exhibit will be provided to the property owner and the town.
5. Governor Street to Bailey Avenue sidewalk discussion: Mr. Recck asked that Ms. Wilmot and Ms. Burns set up a meeting with Mr. Marconi to try and move this project forward.
6. Ridgefield Boys & Girls Club parking. E. Burns reported that on mornings when the Boys & Girls Club has swim meets, there are no spaces available in the Governor Street lot by 9:45 am, and it is close to capacity on all other weekdays during the summer months when the camps are operating. She has been in contact with Mr. Marconi to ask him to work with Mike Flynn for a resolution, since the expansion of the Club is complete and no additional parking was incorporated into the Special Permit application that the P&Z approved. Changing the time of day for the swim meets might help.
7. Donnelly lot. Mr. Recck was contacted by Attorney Rex Gustafson representing the Donnelly Trust. He requested additional town permits for some of their tenants because the Thrift Shop patrons (also their tenant) fill the lot on the days they are open. Mr. Recck responded by explaining that there are a certain number of permits in each town-owned and town-managed lot available for purchase, and that those numbers are limited to ensure

adequate parking for downtown business's patrons and customers. He noted that the Thrift Shop had been provided additional landlord permits for their volunteer staff, which also exacerbates the problem, and asked that volunteers who are able-bodied be asked to park in the nearby Governor Street lot instead of the Donnelly lot. Ms. Wilmot and Ms. Burns concurred with his response to this request.

8. PZC Outdoor dining proposal and EV Charging proposal. Mr. Recck reported that the P&Z requested comment on their proposed outdoor dining regulation (resulting from a change in State Statutes effective May 1). [Ms. Wilmot did not participate in this discussion or in preparing the PA letter to P&Z on the subject since she is a restaurant owner]. Mr. Recck, with input from Ms. Burns, submitted comments indicating that the PA's jurisdiction is limited to the Central Business District and the Branchville Station lot, and only in lots town-owned lots and private lots with which the town has a license agreement. The proposed regulation includes a requirement for approval from the Parking Authority, yet the Statute specifically states that a permit for such outdoor dining cannot be denied due to any ordinance or zoning regulation establishing minimum parking requirements. Consequently, the PA would seem to have no basis to disapprove a permit. The public hearing was held on July 5 and closed, with no vote taken. Discussion and vote will be on the July 18 agenda. Mr. Recck reported that the EV Charging proposal had been amended to refer only to new parking lots.

9. Parking fines data. Mr. Recck shared data from Ms. Fernandez on parking violations issued during the 30 days ending 7/19. There were 114 tickets issued and 38 fees paid for daily parking at the Branchville Train Station. The 114 violations were a 37% increase from the prior 30 day period, and 63% of them were for overtime violations. Mr. Recck will request from Ms. Fernandez data on town permits sold by lot for the period starting July 1.

Adjournment. Ms. Burns moved, and Mr. Recck seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:04 a.m. Motion approved 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Burns