

Town of Ridgefield
Parking Authority Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 16, 2021 – 8:00 a.m.
Town Hall Lower Level Large Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT
MEETING MINUTES – APPROVED

Members present:

J. Wilmot, E. Burns, M. Recck

Members absent:

None

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

1. Approval of minutes. Mr. Recck made a motion to approve the minutes from October 21, 2021, seconded by Ms. Wilmot. Motion approved 3 – 0.
2. Update on Donnelly lot and Ridgefield Thrift Shop correspondence. Chairman Wilmot has received no other information or correspondence from Town Hall regarding the complaints from RTS volunteers. Ms. Burns has observed volunteers parking in the Donnelly lot with permits, so it is assumed that Gavin Donnelly has provided landlord permits requested. No further action by the PA is required.
3. Governor Street usage and discussion with UBP and other property owners. Ms. Burns reported that the lot continues to be about 50-60% occupied on most weekdays, while Donnelly and Bailey Avenue lots are largely full. First Selectman Rudy Marconi joined the meeting at this point, and indicated that he thought the lot was still underutilized. There needs to be an ongoing effort to get landlords and tenants to instruct their employees to park in the Governor Street lot. An email was received from Urstadt Biddle indicating that their tenants' employees were resisting parking in the lot because it wasn't well lit and they had to leave work at night. Ms. Wilmot and Ms. Burns responded that the lot was now well lit, and that Ridgefield was a very safe town, so there was no reason for their staff to avoid parking in the lot during the day and into the evening. UBP said they would communicate to their tenants that the lot should be used by employees now that the lighting was completed and the lot expanded. UBP requested a map of the lot for their records, which was sent to them by Ms. Burns, indicating that the walk from the Governor Street lot to their tenants on Bailey/Main Street was about 600 feet. Ms. Wilmot walked it and indicated it took about 3 minutes. This effort will be continued by the PA into the new year.
4. Email Correspondence from ECDC member Sean Dowd. Mr. Dowd is the "liaison" to the PA from the ECDC, so he emailed Ms. Wilmot with an update on December 8, following another email received from G. Morris (former Chairman of the ECDC) regarding the Post Office parking lot and discussions with property owner Benenson and the status of the parking lot at St. Stephens. A discussion followed regarding the responsibilities/authority of the PA vs. the ECDC regarding parking in the Central Business District. A new Chairman of the ECDC has been elected (Glori Norwitt) following the resignation of Mr. Morris as Chairman. Ms. Burns will contact Ms. Norwitt to initiate further discussions.
5. Mapping Project – Data file from S. Lussier. Mr. Recck received the file from Ms. Lussier and will print a large-scale copy for discussion, revision and corrections at our next meeting.

6. Patrol Schedule, staffing status. Ms. Wilmot emailed L. Fernandez regarding this issue but did not hear back, so no update on this issue.
7. License agreements for 2022: New agreements will be negotiated with Amatuzzi and UBP, and Love Realty will be contacted again following the failure to reach an agreement in February, 2020.
8. Meeting Schedule for 2022: A discussion of the meeting schedule for 2022 resulted in the following. Ms. Burns moved, and Mr. Recck for the following meeting schedule, all meetings at 8 a.m.

Thursday, 1/20

Thursday, 2/17

Thursday, 3/17

Thursday, 4/21

Thursday, 5/19

Thursday, 6/16

Thursday, 7/21

Thursday, 8/18

Thursday, 9/29

Thursday, 10/20

Thursday, 11/10

Thursday, 12/15

Motion passed, 3- 0

9. Other business. Mr. Marconi discussed the planned re-enactment of the Battle of Ridgefield which will take place on April 29 through May 1, 2022. This will be a very large and well-attended event, coordinated with the Ridgefield Historical Society and the town. Parking will be a big part of the planning effort, and the PA will reach out to Tracy Seem of the Historical Society to determine what assistance and planning we can provide.
10. Adjournment. E. Burns moved, and M. Recck seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:20 a.m. Motion approved 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Burns