

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



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PUBLIC HEALTH, RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF THE RTM
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA — AMENDED*
MONDAY OCTOBER 5, 2026 6:45 P.M.
APPLEBY ROOM, TOWN HALL

1. Establishment of quorum and call to order.
2. Public Comment.
3. Consideration of and action on minutes of the September 14, 2026, committee meeting.
4. Consideration of and possible action on issues referred to committee:
 - Review of Ordinance Chptr 12.12, Jordan Park House (RTC 10/6/25)
5. Adjournment

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
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2026 SEP 28 | A 8:00
ATTEST: *Diana J. Lange*
TOWN CLERK

encl: PHRE Minutes 09/14/26
Chptr 12.12 – Attorney Kelly recommendations

* Amended: Issue for consideration and agenda numbering corrected; complete copy of 9/14/26 Minutes included;
Chptr 12.12 draft replaced with Attorney's recommendations

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



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TOWN CLERK

Public Health, Recreation & Environment Committee

Meeting Minutes—Sept. 14, 2026

Members Present: Steve Besade, Narciss Greene, Richard Gonyo, Kayla Mullen, Ocean Pellett

Also Present: Director of Recreation and Parks Ryan McNamara, Assistant Director for Recreation and Parks Tim Ciplik, RTM Moderator Susan Driscoll

1. Call to order: Chair Greene called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.
2. Public comment: Helen Kwasniewski noted her opinion on an increase in beach fees for all and also requested senior citizens get a free beach pass sticker rather than show ID for free entry. Kwasniewski also brought up the potential for charging for summer beach concerts.
3. Previous Minutes: Motion by Mullen, second by Besade, to approve the Jul. 30, 2026, minutes as presented. Voice vote: Unanimous Motion passed.
4. Consideration of/possible action on items referred to committee:
 - Review of Ordinance Chptr 12.12, Jordan Park House (RTC 10/6/25). Brief discussion and consensus on clerical and clarification revisions: making minor changes to the Editor's note; inserting approval date citation placeholders; correcting Commission's name; and, with input from Director McNamara, codifying the division of building and grounds maintenance responsibilities implemented after the 2020 amendment to the Public Works ordinances. General consensus that with these changes [see attached Draft #2] they are ready to move to public hearing. Chair will contact Town Attorney for next steps and scheduling/public notice timelines.
 - Review of Beach Fees (RTC 6/1/26): Director McNamara presented a paper slide show on Rec & Parks' new beach fees recommendations [see attached], which included comparisons of fee schedules in previous years as well as historical and projected data on beach fee revenue and costs of beach maintenance and staff. He and Assistant Director Cieplik then fielded committee members' suggestions and questions in various areas:

In 2025 ~\$101K in costs were recouped by beach fees and ~\$140K were recouped in 2026. While seniors can get into the beach for free by showing their ID, many still choose to purchase a car sticker for a variety of personal reasons. One key point made by the Director was that everyone—not just beachgoers—pays for the beach via taxpayer dollars. Therefore, just passes alone will not fully fund the beach. As for concerts, 70-80% of their costs are covered by business sponsors. No other towns in the area charge for their concerts, and our sponsors would be less willing to donate if concerts were no longer free. Excess revenue from the beach, if any, goes back into the general fund. Potential areas to cut costs: rotation of guards without sacrificing safety; get an electronic gate at the gatehouse (upfront cost, but pays off overtime).

Motion by Mullen, second by Gonyo to report this issue out with a recommendation that the RTM approve Rec & Parks proposed 2027 beach fee schedule as presented in order to help cover annual cost increases. Voice vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.
5. Adjournment: Motion by Besade; seconded by Gonyo to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Voice vote: Unanimous.

Submitted by
Narciss Greene, PHRE Chair

encl: Chptr 12.12 Revisions Draft #2
Rec & Parks 2027 Proposed Beach Fee Schedule 9/14/26

TITLE 12 – STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC PLACES⁽¹⁾

Footnote:

– (1) –

Editor's note – A revision in 2020 amendment to Chapter 2.20 moved changed the responsibility for the "servicing and maintenance" of the Jordan Park House from Recreations & Parks Commission to the Public Works Department.

Chapter 12.12 - JORDAN PARK HOUSE

Sections:

12.12.010 - Building named.

The old Waterford library building, now located in Jordan park, shall be known as Jordan park house.

(Prior code § 13-46: RTM XX/XX/XX)

12.12.020 - Service, maintenance responsibility.

All servicing and maintenance of Jordan park house and Jordan park shall be under the jurisdiction of the Public Works department. Servicing of the grounds remains the responsibility of the recreation and parks commission. ~~recreation and parks commission.~~

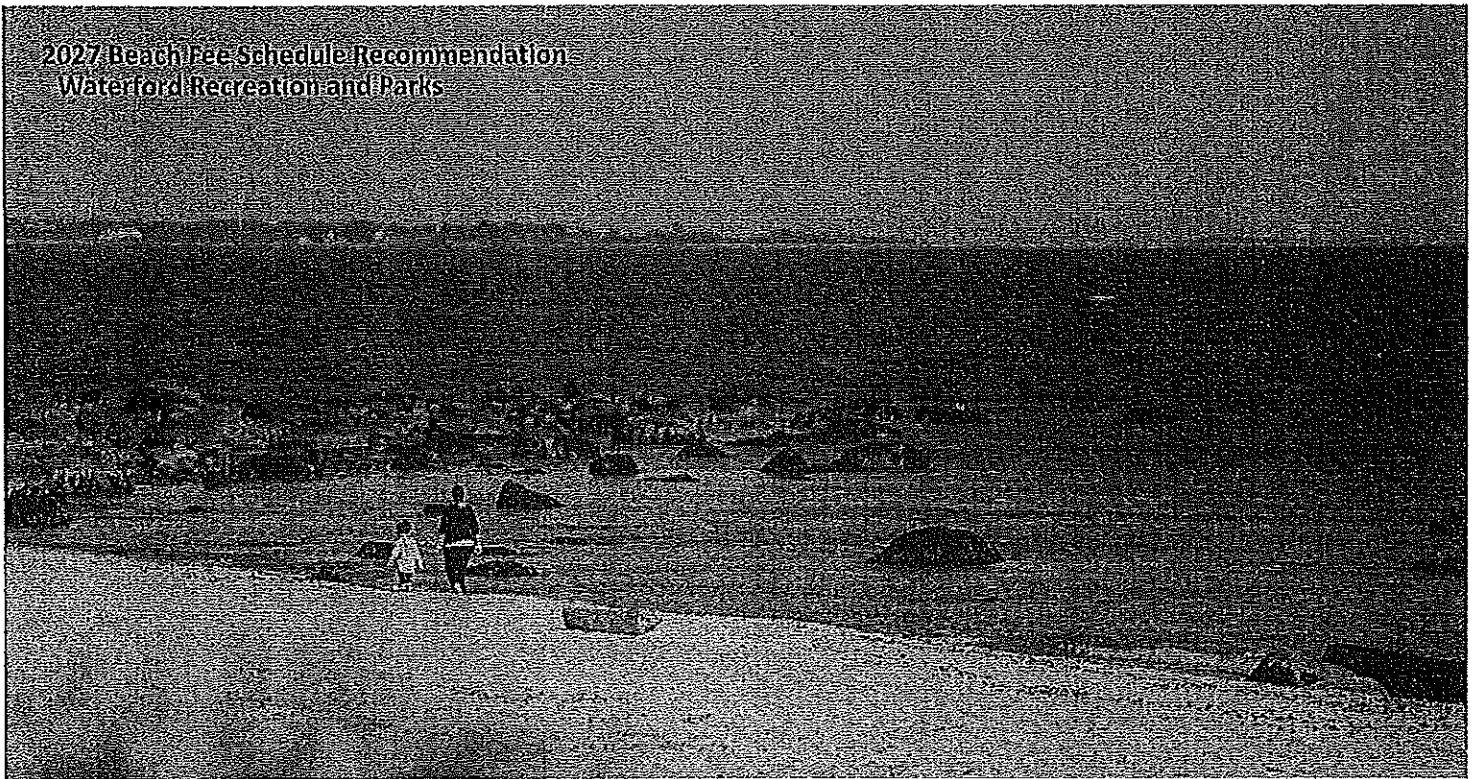
(Prior code § 13-47: RTM XX/XX/XX)

12.12.030 - Scheduling use.

- A. The ~~parks and recreation~~ and parks commission is authorized and empowered to schedule the use of Jordan park house in accordance with the following regulations:
 1. Regular meetings of all qualified groups will be scheduled by the ~~recreation and parks commission~~ according to the following priority:
 - a. Town agencies,
 - b. Community service organizations such as scouts and Red Cross,
 - c. Private organizations with exclusive Waterford membership, such as church groups, service clubs,
 - d. Private organizations with both Waterford and out-of-town membership;
 2. Reservations for special single meetings shall be scheduled after the regular meetings provided for in paragraph 1 of this subsection and in the same order of priority.
- B. All requests for use of Jordan park house or Jordan park for fund raising activity will be granted only at the discretion of the parks and recreation commission.

(Prior code § 13-48: RTM: XX/XX/XX)

2027 Beach Fee Schedule Recommendation
Waterford Recreation and Parks



Beach Fee Schedule

Annual	
Resident	\$30
Non-Resident	\$225
Senior Paid	\$15
Resident Additional Sticker	\$15
Non-Resident Additional Sticker	\$225
Resident Walker/Biker Wristband	\$5
Non-Resident Walker/Biker Wristband	\$15
Daily	
Resident	\$5
Non-Resident	\$30
Senior	Show ID
Resident Picnic	\$5
Non-Resident Picnic	\$15
Weekend	
Resident	Pass Required
Non-Resident	Pass Required
Senior	Show ID
Resident Picnic	\$10
Non-Resident Picnic	\$15

- Present the recommended 2027 beach fee schedule
- Explain the financial realities of beach operations
- Show how incremental fee increases support sustainability
- Demonstrate anticipated revenue impact

The Town Beach Is Subsidized by Taxpayers

- Every single-family household contributes **\$4.36 per \$100,000** of the town budget
- Annual operating costs: **\$275,000–\$350,000**
- Costs continue **year-round**, not just during beach season
- Rising expenses: staffing, maintenance, utilities, safety, environmental care – Minimum wages: 34.5% increase from 2013 (\$13.00/hr) to 2026 (\$17.48/hr)

Why Fees Must Increase

- Operational costs have risen steadily
- Current fee structure does **not** cover annual expenses
- Goal: Improve cost recovery through seasonal use
- Proposed increases are **incremental, reasonable, and aligned with cost recovery**

Fee Schedule Comparisons

Fee Structure	2025	2026	2027
Annual			
Resident	\$25	\$25	\$30
Non-Resident	\$175	\$175	\$225
Senior Paid	\$11	\$11	\$15
Resident Additional Sticker	\$11	\$11	\$15
Non-Resident Additional Sticker	\$175	\$175	\$225
Resident Walker/Biker Wristband	\$2	\$2	\$5
Non-Resident Walker/Biker Wristband	\$10	\$10	\$15
Daily			
Resident	\$2	\$2	\$5
Non-Resident	\$25	\$25	\$30
Senior	Show ID	Show ID	Show ID
Resident Picnic	\$2	\$2	\$5
Non-Resident Picnic	\$8	\$8	\$15
Weekend			
Resident	Pass Req	Pass Req	Pass Req
Non-Resident	Pass Req	Pass Req	Pass Req
Senior	Show ID	Show ID	Show ID
Resident Picnic	\$6	\$6	\$10
Non-Resident Picnic	\$11	\$11	\$15

Pass Sales Snapshot (2026)

Pass Type	2026	Passed Sold 2026
Resident	\$25	1488
Resident Sticker Replacement	\$5	22
Non-Resident	\$175	443
NR Sticker Replace	10	6
Senior Paid	\$11	622
Resident Additional Sticker	\$11	712
Non-Resident Additional Sticker	\$175	0
Resident Walker/Biker Wristband	\$2	234
Non-Resident Walker/Biker Wristband	\$10	12
Non-Resident - FT Employee Town/BOE	\$25	30
NR BOE/Town employee Additional	\$11	2

Revenue Impact of Proposed Increases

Fee Structure	2025	2026	2027	Passes Sold 2026	Anticipated Revenue Increase
Annual					
Resident	25	25	30	1488	\$7,440.00
Resident Sticker Replace		5		22	
Non-Resident	175	175	225	443	\$22,150.00
NR Sticker Replace		10		6	
Senior Paid	11	11	15	622	\$2,488.00
Resident Additional Sticker	11	11	15	712	\$2,848.00
Non-Resident Additional Sticker	175	175	225	0	
Resident Walker/Biker Wristband	2	2	5	234	\$1,404.00
Non-Resident Walker/Biker Wristband	10	10	15	12	\$60.00
Non-Resident - FT Employee Town/BOE	25	25	30	30	\$150.00
NR BOE/Town employee Additional		11		2	
Daily					
Resident	2	2	5	585	\$1,755.00
Non-Resident	25	25	30	1033	\$5,165.00

Where the Revenue Comes From

- Non-resident annual passes: **\$22,150**
- Resident annual passes: **\$7,440**
- Resident day passes: **\$2,488**
- Non-resident day passes: **\$2,848**
- Senior passes: **\$1,755**
- Other categories: **\$6,779 combined**

What This Revenue Supports

- Year-round maintenance
- Lifeguard staffing
- Safety and emergency equipment
- Environmental protection
- Facility upkeep and repairs
- Utilities and contracted services

Summary

- The beach is a valuable community asset
- Rising costs require incremental fee adjustments
- Proposed schedule adds **\$43,460** in revenue to help recover seasonal use costs
- *Maintains quality, safety, and accessibility*

Reccomend

- **Approve the 2027 Beach Fee Schedule**

TITLE 12 – STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC PLACES^[1]

Footnote:

– (1) –

transitioned

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park house from the recreation and parks commission to the department of public works.

Chapter 12.12 - JORDAN PARK HOUSE

Sections:

[insert below Sections:] 12.12.010 Building named.
12.12.020 Service, maintenance responsibility.
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(Prior code § 13-47: RTM XX/XX/XX)

...under the jurisdiction of the... department of public works, and all service and maintenance of the grounds of Jordan park shall be under the jurisdiction of the recreation and parks commission.

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