



Waterford Recreation and Parks Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 25th, 2024 @ 4:30 pm

Waterford Community Center

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WATERFORD, CT

2024 JUL -9 1P 3:09

ATTEST: *David L. Conroy*
TOWN CLERK

The Recreation and Parks Commission held a regular scheduled meeting on June 25th, 2024 at the Waterford Community Center. Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Program Coordinator, T. Cieplik and a quorum was established.

Members in attendance: M. Gwudz, R. Erricson, T. Santos, E. Murphy, N. Scheiber, T. Stino, J. Gregg

Members Absent: R. McNamara (Director), M. Chiappone, L. Beaney

Staff: T. Cieplik (Program Coordinator), E. Sullivan (Office Coordinator)

Guests: Laurie Wolfley – R.I.S.E. Representative; Robert Tuneski (Finance Liason), Rick Muckle (Selectman), Robert Avena (Waterford Town Attorney)

New Business:

(Motion #1): R. Erricson made a motion and N. Scheiber seconded to move New Business up to the first agenda item for discussion. So voted 7/0. Beach admission changes on holidays and weekends due to the amount of people and traffic. Discussion was held to put things in place for a safer environment and a manageable beach. On Juneteenth we had a full beach with over flowing parking and it seems to be happening more and more. The bathrooms had to be shut down and for the concert that evening we had 20+ firemen and numerous volunteers there to help us also. We need to fairly assess the demands for all and have come up with suspending the day park at the gate on holidays and weekends. Both residents and non-residents who have a parking pass for the season may enter provided there is parking – the maximum capacity is 300 cars.

(Motion #2) T. Stino made a motion and R. Erricson seconded to approve the wording and follow thru the actions discussed by Attorney Avena and noted below. So voted 7/0.

I hereby move, due to the unusually early high demand for parking at Waterford Beach Park this summer season that temporarily, payments for day parking passes for all beachgoers will not be accepted at the beach gate house for holidays, Saturdays and Sundays. Drop off and pickup for day walkers and bikes will continue to be available at the beach gate house. This policy will only affect summer holidays and weekends, regular non holiday weekday passes will still be available at the gate house. Point of sale passes will not be sold at the gate on the 4th, 5th, 6th or 7th of July. Parking is limited to 300 vehicles, when this number is reached all vehicle entry regardless of prior purchased passes will be stopped until space is deemed available.

Ridgewood Park has been overflowing with cars parking on it when Ocean beach is full. There have been numerous complaints now that the beach season is back in full swing. (Motion #3) J. Gregg made a motion and T. Stino seconded to give the Waterford Public Works Department the ability to put up NO PARKING signs around Ridgewood Park and for Waterford Police Department to enforce it. So voted 6 yes/1 no.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

(Motion #4): R. Erricson made a motion and J. Gregg seconded to approve the May 28th, 2024 meeting minutes. So voted 7/0

Public Comments:

Laura Wolfley – Waterford RISE Representative gave a big thank you to the commission for the use of the community center to hold an event on the awareness of Juneteenth, which was held on Saturday, June 15th to share and discuss with the community what Juneteenth holiday is all about.

Correspondence:

None