

Town of Ridgefield
Parking Authority Meeting
September 18, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.
Town Hall Small Conference Room, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT
MEETING MINUTES – UNAPPROVED/UNREVISED

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 8:04 a.m.

1. Approval of minutes from August 21, 2025. Mr. Recck moved, and Ms. Wilmot seconded, approval of minutes for 8/21/25. Motion passed 3 – 0.
2. Parking Enforcement Officer report. Mr. Yarrish reported that Parking Enforcement Officer K. Knoche is leaving, with her last day on 9/25. The town is advertising for a replacement. New/updated signage is being installed in lots managed by the town today.
3. Discussion with member of Ridgefield Resistance group. Karen Siclare introduced herself and her organization. Her concern is regarding an out-of-state group (calling themselves “Logical Conservatives”) which parked an oversize vehicle (a motor coach/bus) all day on Main Street on some Sundays in July and August. She reported that the vehicle was ticketed by the RPD but that it was not required to move. It was parked on two occasions in front of Baja Cucina at 426 Main Street, and once in front of 470 Main Street, taking up multiple parking spaces for 8 or more hours at a time. She and her group and many merchants she spoke to felt the presence of the bus and behavior of the individuals associated with it (arguing with people on the street and video-taping for their social media pages) hurt businesses downtown. There were counter-protests present as well, and she expressed concerns about the negative impact this group had on our beautiful Main Street and its businesses. While it appears that the bus has not been back since August, she is concerned about what might happen in the upcoming mid-term election year. She is requesting that oversized vehicles be prohibited from parking on Main Street. Since Main Street is a state highway, the CT-DOT would have to approve of any changes made in our parking regulations affecting Main Street. Mr. Recck will send a letter to the Police Commission requesting they consider recommending a prohibition on oversized vehicles parking on Main Street to the CT-DOT.
4. Continuation of CVS/USPS lot discussion. No update. It was noted that the gated area in the lot is not locked, but very few cars park there due to the risk of being locked in. Mr. Yarrish reported that the new owner of Village Wine & Spirits is still using his own signs. With the update of signage happening today (including making the time limit signs more visible), his signs will need to come down as they are a violation of the PA’s License agreement.
5. Regency Centers, 404-424, 424R and 426 Main Street. Ms. Burns distributed a revised draft agreement, which was discussed and reviewed by the members. She will finalize and send to Mr. Recck for submission to Regency for their review.
6. Parking data review. Mr. Recck distributed the report for August and it showed 169 tickets issued and just 40 daily parking fees at the Branchville lot. There was no report issued for July.

Mr. Yarrish reported that since the Depot Road bridge replacement project started, the amount of daily parking has dropped significantly, although there are still plenty of daily parking spaces available. Mr. Recck was not provided with the requested list of permits sold in downtown lots, but will have one for the next meeting.

7. Other business: Ms. Burns mentioned that the lease with the Whistlestop Café requires that coffee and food be offered for sale at the station during certain hours but that is not happening and hasn't for several years. She felt it was an important part of the operations of the station. Mr. Recck will follow up with First Selectperson Marconi about the status of the lease.

Adjournment. Ms. Burns moved, and Mr. Recck seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:55 a.m. Motion approved 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Burns