

Town of Ridgefield
Parking Authority Meeting
March 20, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.
Town Hall Lower Level Small 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 8:05 a.m.

1. Approval of minutes from February 27, 2025. Mr. Recck moved, and Ms. Wilmot seconded, approval of minutes for 2/27/25. Motion passed 3 – 0.
2. Parking Enforcement Officer report. Mr. Yarrish reported that town has been quiet so fewer tickets have been issued. He said that the other PEO was out for 2 weeks and will be unable to work in the coming month or so. He's filling in as much as possible but is limited to 30 hrs/week. He also reported that in response to the DOJ audit of downtown parking areas, the handicap space to the east of the Thrift Shop building will be relocated soon. He noted that the permit fees for monthly and daily parking at the Branchville Train Station are very low compared to other towns. He will gather data and bring proposals for changes to our next meeting. According to the town controller, the revenue generated by the Branchville Train Station is low compared to the costs of maintaining the lot.
3. CVS/USPS lot discussion
 - a. Mr. Marconi joined the meeting to report that some progress had been made in reaching out to the USPS, but that he's still waiting to hear something from Congressman Himes' office.
4. Review draft agreements
 - a. Regency Centers, 404-424, 424R & 426 Main Street. Ms. Burns heard back from the new property manager and will schedule a meeting with her and others, including Mr. Recck in April. There are too many landlord permits being used in the Bailey Avenue lot, and Regency management has to be informed that their permits cannot be used in the lot during the hours we patrol the lot.
 - b. Fairfield County Bank Insurance Services, 401 Main Street. No progress. Mr. Marconi suggested he contact Mike McNamara from FCB since he is not getting any response from FCBIS.
4. Parking data review. There were just 108 violations issued in February compared to 208 in January. Daily parking fees in the Branchville Train station were also down – 94 in February compared to 178 in January. There were just 3 violations for parking in an EV space without charging. Mr. Marconi reported that replacement of the Depot Road bridge (which has been closed since 2019) will commence sometime this year. Staging for the demolition and reconstruction of the bridge will impact the BTS parking lot. He also requested that we review the daily parking fees at the station due to the increasing costs associated with maintaining the lot.

5. Public Comment. Edgardo Escribano, owner of Pelo by Edgardo on Bailey Avenue joined the meeting to offer his concerns regarding the loss of the 3-hr spaces in the Bailey Avenue lot, which some of his clients used for their long appointments. Mr. Yarrish and others explained that, before the change to 2-hours, those spaces had been used primarily by employees of nearby restaurants all day, every day, with cars being moved to avoid tickets. Mr. Escribano's business is in a building with no parking space of its own, so he must rely on nearby lots owned by the town or by other property owners. He receives complaints from his clients regarding the parking situation downtown. Ms. Burns explained that no other lot in town that the PA manages has more than 2 hour limits, and the PA felt it was necessary to keep downtown employees from using those spaces all day. Mr. Escribano also mentioned that the problem is the worst on the days that the Thrift Shop is open. Mr. Recck thanked him for attending the meeting and for his input.

Adjournment. Ms. Burns moved, and Mr. Recck seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:26 a.m. Motion approved 3 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Burns