



Deep River Parks and Recreation
Commission Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2017

The meeting of the Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:03 by Vice-Chairman, Betsy Scholfield. Members present were Karen Dexter, Mary-Elizabeth Massey, Miriam Morrissey, Betsy Scholfield, Leslie Sheehan, Brandon Woodcock, Tracy Woodcock and Stephani Award. Carol Jones, Director, was also present. Members absent were: James Beardsley, Dave Berardis, James Cunningham, Kevin Crosby, Tania Crosby, Sarah Kately, Grace Petroka, Don Sampson, Cristi Stroud-Downes and Justin Waz.

Audience of Citizens: As there was a large audience of citizens present, (19), commission member, Tracy Woodcock made a motion to 1) limit the time of comment to 30 minutes or until 7:35 pm. and to limit each person who chooses to speak to 3 minutes. A second was made by Sheehan. The motion passed unanimously. All citizens in attendance were asked to sign in. The sign in sheet is attached to these minutes. The audience was in attendance to voice their support of the Misfit Cruisers being allowed to continue to use Plattwood Park for their weekly cruise night. The organization's members and supporters were under the impression that the Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission was not going to allow the organization to continue using Plattwood Park for their Tuesday night event due to space restrictions and general dissatisfaction. Seven citizens addressed the Commission. Mr. Olsen, who was the first to speak expressed his belief that the event was beneficial to Deep River because it provided the Town with additional revenue as well as encouraged people of all ages to attend. Mr. Olsen offered his support, in any discussion, to keep the Misfit Cruisers at Plattwood Park. Mr. Hermann spoke next and told the Commission that he owns an antique car business in Centerbrook, Connecticut and believes the Misfit Cruisers' event is an opportunity for a family outing as well as an opportunity to get the younger generation involved in the hobby of antique cars. Ms. Kmetz spoke next and stated that as an active volunteer in the community, she has worked with the members of the Misfit Cruisers as they have contributed and participated in local charity events. She expressed her desire to keep the Misfit Cruiser event in town. Mr. Doran was the fourth person to speak. He would like the event to remain in Town as it is promoted through some of the Connecticut automotive technical schools, as an actual opportunity for its students to experience different eras of the automobile. Mr. Doran thinks the event is always well attended and that he has never witnessed any trouble. Mr. Kiaffas' followed by stating that "he would hate to see Deep River lose the Tuesday night event, as he believes many car enthusiasts travel to Deep River to attend the event". Ms. Beckwith spoke next and added that it would be a "shame on many levels" to lose the Misfit Cruisers. She believes the event provides a good sense of community

as it keeps “people off their phones” and allows people to connect with each other. She also believes the event is an opportunity for additional revenue for the Town as people drive into town to get gas at Cumberland Farms. Mr. Shailer was the final speaker and he spoke of the sense of community the Misfit Cruisers event created, as well as the good business opportunities it provided. He would be “disappointed” if the Town lost the Misfit Cruisers event. Mr. Cahill questioned the posting of the March 8, 2017 Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda. He was unable to find the Agenda online. Ms. Kmetz requested the Misfit Cruisers event be put on the Agenda for next month.

Secretary’s Report: The report was read and a motion to accept the report was made by T. Woodcock. A second was made by Morrissey. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: The report was read and a motion to accept the report was made by T. Woodcock. A second was made by Sheehan. The report passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

1. Open Mic Night-Friday, March 24 @ 7:00 pm in the Deep River Town Hall. The last Open Mic event was well attended and drew people from other Towns. The event will be extended to run through May.
2. Basketball- The Basketball Program finished Saturday, March 4, 2017. There was a tournament for the 10-12th grade teams that lasted all day from 8am-7pm. All 9 teams competed with the 5th and 6th seeded teams advancing to the championship game. The winner of this year's 'Valley Cup' tournament was the Minnesota Timberwolves. This year, 32 seniors participated in the program so B. and T. Woodcock created a “Senior Bowl” so that the seniors could play against each other for a day of fun. Four teams were created and four captains chosen based on the following criteria: had to have participated more than a year in the program and had to be a good sportsman. The Captains selected the teams and the Senior Bowl will be held on March 11th from 9-1 at JW. Admission will be a canned good which will be donated to the Deep River Food pantry. T-shirts were ordered for each player and a “basketball” trophy will be awarded.
3. Bus Trips- there are still seats available for “CATS”.
4. Movies-Classic Winter Series was successful. Committee will plan for next year. Some thoughts on including Earth Day in the program and having the series run beginning in January with a movie in February, March and April. Summer movies have been ordered and are as follows: July 28-Jaws, August 4 -The Incredibles, August 11-The Secret Life of Pets, August 18- The Force Awakens. Committee needs to decide about selling popcorn, candy and drinks and/or water at movies.
5. Enrichment Program- “Big, Bad Musical” had 19 children involved. 89 tickets were sold

on Sunday and 150 tickets were sold on Saturday. Will move the matinée time to 1:00pm next year (this year matinée was held at 11:00 am because of Super Bowl Sunday). A profit of approximately \$900.00 was made.

6. Easter Egg hunt- Egg Stuffing will be held at Committee member Sarah Kateley's house, Thursday, March 30 at 6:00 pm. Pizza and Soda will be available.
7. Fishing Derby- Scholfield will look into the cost of a banner to advertise derby as it is open to all area towns. The derby is on May 13th 2017.
8. Summer Camp-Registration forms are available on-line. Staff applications will go on-line March 9. Sign up for the lifeguard class is available online as well.
9. Carnival- June 15-17, 2017. 20-30 food trucks will participate in this year's carnival due to the involvement of a promoter. He will also look into supplying other types of entertainment such as bands and crafters. Jones to approach Lion's Club about their continued involvement. Commission willing to donate percentage of Carnival profits to Lion's Club, if Lion's Club loses revenue due to promoter involvement.
10. Parks-

Devitt Field- Jones met with two representatives from DRLL and they will be filing an application to use the field and shack soon. Opening Day of DRLL is set for April 22, 2017.

Plattwood Park: Estimate from 'Esquared, LLC' to install cameras at Plattwood Park is \$10,981.00. The field at Plattwood Park will be named the Richard H. Smith field. The dedication date and time has not been announced. The field will get a new scoreboard. The scoreboard should be installed in time for the dedication. The memorial garden idea to be installed behind the backstop submitted by Commission member B.Woodcock was well received and Jones reached out to The Deep River Garden Club who is willing to help design it. Parks and Rec has to supply the measurements of the area. The DRLL presented Jones with the following 'wish list' (at the meeting mentioned under Devitt Field above): a storage shed, a batting cage, a press box, bleachers and field upgrades. In response to the listing of the items, the Commission proposed moving the football shed from Devitt Field to Plattwood Park as a possibility. Also Jones reported that when asked DRLL was interested in helping out with the purchase of bleachers if they had extra money but at this time they have to see what their registration numbers look like as their numbers thus far were very low compared to last year. DRLL will be submitting the park use form for Plattwood as well. Regarding the shack at Plattwood, Jones will contact the Health Department to determine what food items we can sell out of the shack as there is still no running water to the facility. The Commission would like to offer hot-dogs and other snack items for sale. The shack needs a refrigerator. A motion was made by Sheehan to use theater revenue of approximately \$900.00 to purchase a refrigerator for the shack. The refrigerator that is there doesn't work so needs to be carted away. A motion was seconded by T.Woodcock. The motion passed unanimously.

Dry Pants Model Yacht Club has filled out an application and would like to use Plattwood Park every Sunday 10:30-1:00 and Wednesday 1:00-3:00, all year long. Parking for the members needs to be considered. Their Regatta is planned for May 20, 2017.

Discussion involving the application process for the Pavilion rental occurred. Town residents currently need only to fill out an application to reserve the Pavilion. Commission to vote on

charging a \$100.00 security deposit per application as insurance against destruction to the Pavilion, refundable if Pavilion has not been damaged or altered in any way. Currently, there are no provisions in place to prevent damage or facilitate cleanup of the Pavilion after an event. Jones has seen the Pavilion in a deplorable condition occasionally after events and feels that a security deposit might persuade renters to thoroughly clean up the area prior to their departure after an event.

The Sub Committee working on new park rules and signage will work on this idea as well and present it at the April meeting.

Misfit Cruise Nights- At this time, The Misfit Cruisers have not filed the appropriate paperwork to continue their Tuesday night event. They need to fill out an application every year. The Commission had received several complaints in 2016 some of which were also received in 2015 but not resolved. D. Brooks of the Misfit Cruise event had been notified of these on going complaints on several occasions in order to rectify the problems. The complaints received regarding the Misfit Cruise event held at Plattwood Park on Tuesday nights (May-September) are as follows:

- Townspeople are not allowed to use the beach while the event is going on.
- Townspeople have been turned away from entering the park if not specifically there to attend the Misfit Cruiser event. These residents were there to utilize the playground, basketball courts, skate park or the fitness trail.
- Townspeople have had to park on the side of the road and walk into Plattwood Park in order to use the Park due to the Misfit Cruisers appropriating all the parking spots. This includes families with small children, who do not want to walk on busy Route 80 in order to utilize the beach swimming area and playground with their young children.
- The members of the Misfit Cruisers begin the setup of their event too early in the day, discouraging Townspeople from parking in the park from early in the afternoon onward and causing interference with the youth summer camp pick up procedure
- Town residents have complained of being verbally mistreated as they tried to enter the park and park their vehicles in the Plattwood Park parking lot.
- The Misfit Cruise patrons and participants leave garbage and cigarette butts behind without properly disposing of them.

The parking lot at Plattwood Park is being upgraded to include what was laid out in the contract drawings for the work performed under the STEAP grant awarded to the Town for upgrades to Plattwood Park in 2013. Small islands will be installed in the parking lot and lines indicating actual parking spaces will be painted. The Commission is concerned how this will affect both the Misfit Cruisers event and the residents' ability to utilize the park during the event; as less parking will be available due to the proposed changes. The Commission instructed Jones to inform the Misfit Cruisers organization that the following conditions must be met in order to continue to hold their weekly car shows at Plattwood Park: 1. a park use application must be filled out and submitted annually. 2. They should check with the Police Chief to see if they need to hire a constable to direct traffic due to patrons and residents needing to park on Route 80 outside but alongside Plattwood Park. The Commission pointed out that this does not single out the Misfit Cruisers, as a constable is required for any event

held at Plattwood Park that anticipates overflow parking i.e. Family Day and Fireworks. 3. A set-up time to begin no earlier than 3:30 pm on the day of the event including the trailer that is dropped off for the event. 4. A designated area at the southern end of the parking lot with 14 contiguous parking spaces to be reserved for Townspeople looking to utilize Plattwood Park during the Misfit Cruisers event. This will require the hot dog trailer to relocate for the event. 5. A designated point person to facilitate communication between the Commission and the Misfit Cruiser organization. These items will be presented by Jones to the Misfit Cruise point person in writing prior to the next meeting. Brockway Ferry-No report.

Old Business:

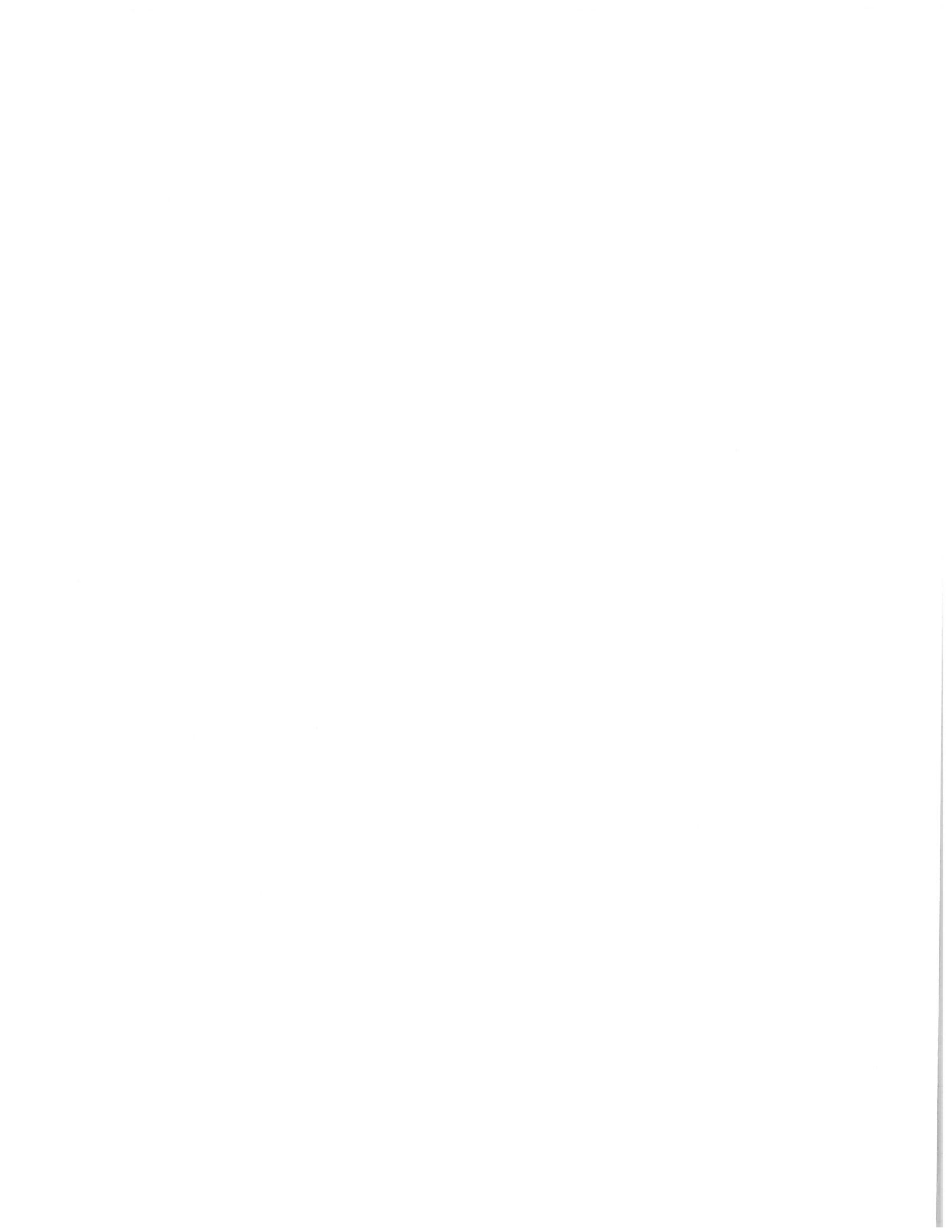
- The Online computer program has been installed and Jones has been in training.
- The Park use rules/policies subcommittee needs all members to email proposed changes or comments to Jones ASAP. Committee discussed setting up a sandwich board at the entrance to Plattwood Park indicating "No daily passes sold at gate" in both English and Spanish. Committee needs to decide how many daily passes to allow and cost of pass. Committee needs to set policy regarding guest passes. All proposed changes need to be voted on at the next meeting so that they can be submitted to the Board of Selectman for review and discussion. Some changes might require a change to a Town Ordinance which would require a vote at a Town meeting.

New Business:

- Fiscal Budgets 2017-2018 have been turned in.
- Seasonal employment- applications available online.
- Parks and Recreation Commission needs members due to vacancies.

Adjournment: Sheehan made a motion to adjourn at 9:21 pm. A second was made by B. Woodcock. The motion passed unanimously.

Stephani Award,
Secretary, Deep River Parks and Recreation Commission



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Audience of Citizens

March 8, 2017

Name:

address / Town

1. ✓ Thomas Cahill ✓ 198 Westbrook Rd Deep River
2. Christopher M Smith 58 Riverview Ave D.R.
3. BRUCE EDGERTON 67 RATTLING VALLEY
4. Ed Field 63 Cedar Swamp Rd.
5. Dow Brookes 120 Bushy Hill Rd.
6. Audrey Brookes 120 Bushy Hill Rd
7. Susan Beckwith 20 Henry Lane
8. ✓ Kelly Beckwith ✓ 20 Henry Lane Higganum CT
9. Christopher Beckwith 20 Henry Lane
10. George Douglas 168 Bushy Hill DR
11. Maureen Douglas 168 Bushy Hill DR
12. Linda Kiaffas 45 ESSEX ST DR
13. ✓ Jim Kiaffas ✓ 45 Essex St. DR
14. Norman Bowchard 54 Village St DR
15. ✓ Janice Kmetz ✓ DR
16. ✓ Jim Olson ✓ Witherup Rd DR
17. ✓ JEFFREY DORANS ✓ 46 BRIDGE ST DR
18. ✓ Ralph Hermann ✓ ESSEX
19. ✓ Phil Sharles ✓

March 5, 1914

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Address

Name

188 West York St
D.S.

Thomas (William)
Christopher M. Smith

67 RAINBOW VALLEY
63 Cedar Swamp Rd.

BRUCE PIERSON
Ed Field

150 Board Hill Rd
50 Board Hill Rd

Dr. Binkley
Walter Crookes

50 Henry Lane

2100 Belmont

50 Henry Lane Higdon CT
50 Henry Lane

Henry's - 2200 1/2
Chris Taylor Beckwith

1100 Board Hill

George Douglas

1100 Board Hill

George Douglas

1100 Board Hill

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