

September 8, 2014

The Waterfront Commission held a special meeting on this date at the Human Services meeting room, Stonington, CT. Members present were Sandy Grimes, Chairman; Randy Minor; Mike Grimshaw; Ethan Grimes, Secretary, Treasurer; Stepanie Hayes-Houlihan and Alene Whipple. First Selectman Ed Haberek, Chief Darren Stewart, Captain Jerry Desmond and Director of Public Works Barbara McKrell were also present. Many residents of the Town.

Chairman Grimes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Haberek addressed the residents present stating that there have been issues and complaints with the Recreational Open Space area at the dock for several years. He added that the Waterfront Commission is the legislative body that oversees all waterfront property.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Minor made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The balance in the WFC account is \$925.00. Mrs. Hayes-Houlihan seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Previous minutes

Mr. Grimshaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting as presented. Mrs. Hayes-Houlihan seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Old Business

Dock Area housekeeping/maintenance – Ongoing

Donahue Park – Nothing to report.

Open Space Recreation area – Mr. Grimshaw questioned why the Commission is addressing this issue again. Mr. S. Grimes replied that there is a new homeowner whose property abuts the park area and the police have been contacted several times.

At this time, Mr. S. Grimes asked who would like to speak:

Don Kluberanz asked that the park stay a safe area for dogs and owners. He stated that on July 20 he noticed a NO TRESPASSING sign and there was a lock on the gate. He noticed powder on the rock wall and he was yelled at by someone at 13 Front Street. He added that he has researched the area thoroughly and the harbor beach is public property. A stun gun has been brandished and photographs taken of pets and owners.

Jack Gorby stated that he would like a formal definition for the property. Nineteen additional residents spoke in support of the continued use of the Recreation Open Space as a dog park. Many of these residents have avoided the area lately for fear of being intimidated and harassed. They all agree that it is a friendly community oriented, safe and clean area.

Dori Abel stated that living inches away from this area is not working. The Town needs to provide a larger buffer of land. She added that the Police asked that the property owners document the activity at the park.

Mr. S. Grimes recounted the history of the park stating that he too has researched the area and has found it to be well run with courteous and friendly dog owners.

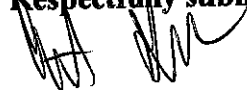
Members discussed and agreed that people from other Towns do use the park but trying to enforce rules, hours etc. would only cause more problems, particularly for the police. At this time, Chief Stewart stated that an 'accidental' dog park is not new and it is up to the residents to self regulate.

Mr. Minor made a motion to leave the park as it is. Mr. Grimshaw seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Members discussed the Spellman Wharf sign and possible locations to hang.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Minor made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Grimshaw seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ethan Grimes
Vice Chair/Treasurer