

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF DARIEN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
PUBLIC HEARING**

**September 16, 2013**

The Board of Selectmen continued its public hearing on Monday, September 16, 2013. In attendance were First Selectman Stevenson, Selectmen Bayne, Campbell, Lundeen, and Nielsen. Also in attendance was Town Administrator Karl Kilduff.

**CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Stevenson re-opened the public hearing 7:34 p.m. to receive comment on revision to parking regulations.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

First Selectman Stevenson reviewed the history of the Board's discussions on possible regulatory changes and anticipated technology improvements. It was also noted that the members of the Board were in receipt of 18-20 emails from individuals who could not attend the hearing.

Mr. Kilduff gave a presentation to the Board and audience describing the structure and problems experienced with the current system, the proposed regulatory changes and explained the planned technology changes with pay station functionality and license-plate readers. The daily parking rate structure was also reviewed with regional benchmarks.

James Cameron thanked the Board for extending the public hearing and wished to offer questions he received via email from other commuters which included, the number of pay stations to be deployed, why not combine the parking lots, some commenters were happy with the technology and offered additional locations for more parking, and the discrepancy between the cost of the daily rate relative to the annual permit were emphasized.

Another commuter noted that his cellphone was supplied by his employer and was locked to prevent adding apps. As a result, he would have to use the pay station. He viewed the voucher as fool-proof and not needing to be changed.

Flora Smith noted that pay stations in South Norwalk are regularly broken. She asked how the Town would handle machines breaking down in January and long lines. The presence of voucher spots in the Leroy West lot was questioned. She asked for a financial review of the proposed changes in systems. She asked why it took so long to have a method to check permit license plates. She also asked how the system would respond if a car was switched in an emergency.

Young Lee noted that he was comfortable with the change based on the presentation provided. He suggested a trial period to determine the flow of cars from other

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communities in the parking lot. He noted that the long wait list for permits suggest demand for parking is strong and the price could increase.

Paul Shumik described an experience in Westchester County where pay stations were broken. He questioned how the Town would respond if the machines were not working and people were ticketed. He asked how a commuter could prove payment was made on the app when a ticket was issued. He suggested that permits should be revoked from non-users and that supply and demand suggests an increase in permit fees.

Joe Warren noted that his voucher customers want to buy in bulk. He asked how the pay station and the app would handle payments made for multiple days when weekends or holidays are considered. He wanted to know how long vouchers would be honored as a valid voucher can be good for 3 years.

Paul Mahalski described the wait list system used by the Darien Boat Club as a model to be used. Permit holder could give up their permit but know they would be at the top of the list if a new permit was needed.

Mary O'Connell stated that pay stations would not be a good idea and questioned how the Town would respond if a ticket was issued when the machines are not working.

Joseph Jordan questioned the inequity between the cost of voucher parking compared to the cost of an annual permit. He suggested different pricing based on resident versus non-resident status. He added the time inconvenience of the pay station.

A discussion ensued between the Board and members of the audience regarding the use of voucher spaces for regular commuters instead of limited use parkers and the conversion of voucher spaces to permit spaces.

James Cameron spoke again suggesting that the license plate reader would mean that there is no need to separate the lots. He also spoke about the planned DOT-sponsored construction project in Stamford impacting the Stamford parking garage and his prediction that this project would have impacts on parkers around the area looking for new alternatives.

Discussion continued between the Board and members of the audience to equalize the differential between daily rates and permit rates which included the idea of bulk sales, selling incentive/discounted spaces and the oversell rate.

First Selectman Stevenson concluded the public hearing by offering the Board to look at major themes from the hearing including noting the need for additional information regarding the financial analysis on the system change, changing permit rates for annual parkers instead of the daily rate and commuter convenience. Further action on the proposed parking regulations was tabled for a continued discussion on September 30, 2013.

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The hearing was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Karl F. Kilduff  
Town Administrator