

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF DARIEN  
PARKING AUTHORITY  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**October 20, 2014**

A special meeting of the Parking Authority was held on Monday, October 20, 2014. In attendance were First Selectman Stevenson, Selectmen Marks, Nielsen and Tierney. Selectman Hall was absent. Also in attendance was Town Administrator Karl Kilduff.

**CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:54 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Cameron asked for the ability to provide his public comment during the Authority's discussion. His request was granted.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Discuss Possible Change in Parking Rates**

First Selectman Stevenson opened discussion with the Authority regarding a potential increase to parking rates. Ms. Marks questioned the sequence of events for an increase. Mr. Kilduff described the process and timing which included a public hearing prior to final action on any rate increase.

Discussion moved to a review of Darien's rates in comparison to rates charged within the region. It was noted that in the past, there was an emphasis on providing something to commuters and projects have moved forward including technology investments, improved lighting, examining new parking alternatives, adding on-street options and cameras at the stations. The wait list cannot be satisfied and increasing rates is viewed as one way to sell more permits.

Mr. Tierney noted the difference between the cost of a permit and the annual expense for daily parkers. He noted that daily rates are below the market rate and non-residents might not use the stations as much if there was no rate savings. He emphasized the need to find the right balance between annual and daily rates.

Authority members questioned the oversell rate for permit spaces, the available balance in the Parking Fund, and capital projects in the pipeline. First Selectman Stevenson described some of the pending capital projects which included lot resurfacing, lighting and security camera. A larger project with the DOT was also discussed.

Mr. Cameron was recognized and stated that while Darien has some of the lowest rates, that that is not the sole reason to raise rates. He felt that commuters will want to be able to point to something to see where their parking fees go. He suggested that the consultant due to be hired for the downtown also provide input and give their expertise in evaluating commuter parking changes.

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Ms. Marks questioned Mr. Cameron on the best way to reach commuters with a discussion ensuing.

Mr. Nielsen emphasized the need to insure that the capital plan for parking can be funded appropriately into the future.

Mr. Tierney stated that if the parking fund budget is balanced then there is no need for a rate increase. Mr. Nielsen asked for a cross-over analysis to look at the funding needs for the capital plan. Mr. Kilduff would have an analysis prepared for the next meeting modeling future operating and capital expenditures.

First Selectman Stevenson responded to a question from Mr. Cameron regarding extending the canopy at Noroton Heights by noting that the Town needs to meet with the DOT to discuss the scope of the local needs at the Noroton Heights station.

**b) Discuss and Take Action on Appointments to the Parking Advisory Committee**

Ms. Marks moved, seconded by Mr. Nielsen to appoint Jim Cameron, Pam Spillane, Susan Lawrence, Dwight Collins and Doug Milne to the Parking Advisory Committee. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Mr. Nielsen moved, seconded by Mr. Tierney, to approve the Parking Authority Special Meeting minutes of October 6, 2014. The motion passed in a 4-0- vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Parking Authority adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Karl F. Kilduff  
Town Administrator