

**TOWN OF STRATFORD  
BOOTHE MEMORIAL PARK COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The Boothe Memorial Park Commission of the Town of Stratford conducted a Regular Meeting on **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017** at 7:00 p.m. in the Employee Lounge on the lower level of Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford CT, pursuant to notice duly given and posted.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Presiding: Chairperson Stephanie Philips

Members In Attendance: Donna Caserta, Paula Mollica, Paul DeVitto-Alternate, Frank Kecko-Alternate, Roseanne Neri, Bob Betts-Alternate

Absent: Richard Brown, Bessie Burton, Anna Scala, Adam Hosa-Alternate, Elliot Severn-Alternate,

Council Members in Attendance: J. Vincent Chase, Tina Manus

Others in Attendance: Pat Patusky-Recreation Dept., Virginia Harris-Friends of Boothe

1. **Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the 10/19/16 Regular Meeting were approved and accepted on a Motion by Council Member J. Vincent Chase, seconded by Council Member Tina Manus and passed unanimously.**
2. **Financial Report:** No report presented at this time. **Motion by Paul DeVitto to table the Financial Report to next month's meeting, seconded by Council Member Tina Manus and passed unanimously.**
3. **Pending/Continuing Business:**
  - a. **Request to consider proposed site for the Stratford Dog Park within Boothe Park** (Present on behalf of the Stratford Dog Park Action Committee/Subcommittee were Bob Jaekle and Pat Patusky.

Chairman Philips entertained comments from Commissioners and others present regarding the approval or disapproval of plans for a prospective Dog Park on Boothe Park property, as follows:

    - Council Member J. Vincent Chase – in favor of a Dog Park in Stratford, but it should be more centrally located in town;
    - Council Member Tina Manus – she will support any of the proposed locations for a Dog Park in Stratford, but does not favor any one over another. She does not think that Boothe Park is preferable since it is not centrally located in town;
    - Commissioner Paul DeVitto – is in favor of a Dog Park in Stratford (his family has dogs and they have impromptu gatherings every weekend at Longbrook Park), but is not in favor of one at Boothe Park;
    - Commissioner Donna Caserta – she strongly supports a Dog Park in Stratford, but not a Boothe Park due to it's historical value;
    - Commissioner Bob Betts – noted that Boothe Park is already open to the public with dogs, and he was very impressed with the letter sent to BMPC from Putney Chapel;
    - Commissioner Frank Kecko – he enjoys the dogs that visit Boothe Park, but is not in favor of a Dog Park. There is too much involved, concerned with clean-up, and it infringes on the historical value of Boothe Park;
    - Commissioner Roseanne Neri – is in favor of a Dog Park in town, but not at Boothe Park since it is a special place and would detract from the character of the Park;
    - Prospective new Commissioner Ann Minton – she is not in favor of a Dog Park at Boothe Park, has concerns with restrictions in the Boothe family wills (nothing is to be added to the Park that will change it's character or historical value);

- Virginia Harris, Friends of Boothe – Boothe Park has been a unique piece of Stratford history since 1663; it qualified as a National Treasure out of respect for the Boothe brothers leaving it to the residents of Stratford. The Friends of Boothe are seeking to bring more activities to the Park since it is a unique resource that is the responsibility of all Stratford residents to preserve it's history. The Friends of Boothe, Town of Stratford and State of Connecticut are in the process of renovating the Barn in the East Meadow, also working on the exhibits and attractions for the Visitors Center by late spring/early summer. She issued an invitation to the Boothe Park Commissioners to visit/tour the Park with Friends of Boothe members (date to be determined).
- Paul Reslink – is in favor of a Dog Park, but thinks it is more attuned to one of the other prospective sites. Boothe Park has had Civil War Reinactments, Shakespeare play productions and a Philharmonic Concerts keeping in mind it's character and historical value;
- Commissioner Besse Burton, Friends of Boothe – Commissioner Donna Caserta submitted written "Remarks from Besse Burton" and reported on her behalf that she is in favor of a Dog Park in town, but opposed to it at Boothe Park.;
- Bob Jaekle, Stratford Dog Park Action Committee/Subcommittee – clarified that the main objective of the SDPA Subcommittee was to choose potential and viable sites for the Dog Park (40 locations over the last 7 years) and generate a final list (the proposed 4 locations). The SDPA Committee's final report is due to the Parks & Recreation Department (for their own recommendation) and the Town Council by 2/13/2017.

There being no further comments from those present, Chairman Stephanie Philips thanked the SDPA Subcommittee for their professional presentation. She also noted that the Boothe Park Commission cares and works to the best of the Park.

**On behalf of the Boothe Memorial Park Commission, Commissioner Donna Caserta presented a negative vote for the Stratford Dog Park Action Committee/Subcommittee's plan for a Dog Park on the Boothe Park property; seconded by Commissioner Roseanne Neri and passed unanimously.**

4. **Volunteers' Reports:** No reports at this time; tabled to next meeting.
  - a. **Boothe Memorial Railway Society**
  - b. **Boothe Memorial Astronomical Society**
  - c. **Boothe Memorial Rose Garden**
  - d. **Boothe Memorial Amateur Radio Club**
  - e. **Friends of Boothe Park**
  - f. **Student Volunteers**
5. **New Business:** None at this time. REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017.
6. **Adjournment:** There being no further business to present or discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m. on a motion by Commissioner Donna Caserta, seconded by Commissioner-Alternate Paul DeVitto, and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Gallo, Recording Secretary