

7/11/17 To the Stony Creek Board - attachment to Minutes

Last month I came across an attachment letter dated November 7, 2016, from Laura Barr, Board Member.

It states in part:

One argument is that if the co-plaintiffs are granted parking spaces, everyone else in Stony Creek will want them, too. They may well want them, but they won't get them because they will not be able to demonstrate the same kind of extreme hardship, unless another business of the magnitude of 128-seat theater wants to come to town.

Another argument is that many others in town already have a difficult time parking in their neighborhoods, so what are the co-plaintiffs complaining about? In my opinion, having no empathy for the co-plaintiffs and wanting them to be as miserable as everyone else, is a shameful argument,

I find the above two paragraphs a shameful statement from a Board Member and must respond.

I should feel shameful denying the plaintiffs special parking when:

Residentially

- 1) that at ^{least} 50 Stony Creek houses have on street parking only, Is that extreme hardship?
- 2) that at least 70 Thimble Island homeowners and their families have no special parking. Is that extreme hardship?
- 3) that 120 boat slip paid yearly by Stony Creek and Island homeowners have no special parking. Is that extreme hardship?

And Commercially

- 4) there are 3 Stony Creek tour boats--the only tourist attraction in Branford and advertised by the town, The combined 3 boats running 7 days a week from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and have a total capacity of 90 passengers. On a weekend there are long lines of tourists, but no special parking. Is that extreme hardship?
 - 5) the gas dock has 15 boat slips for residents and no special parking, Is that extreme hardship?
 - 6) then their 2 restaurants, kayakers, the beach, the park with no special parking. Is that extreme hardship?
- Then there's the library with many functions all year round, many at the same time as special parking for the plaintiffs.

So the rest of Stony Creek and Thimble Islands homeowners should have empathy for

- 1) a plaintiff who has 2 houses, 4 on street parking spaces and does not reside in Stony Creek and the houses are empty.
- 2) a plaintiff who has 2 houses, gets 1 parking space -- has a house which has a side driveway and 2 garages, ~~as~~ the second house ^{off} ~~on~~ street driveway and 3 garages.
- 3) a plaintiff with one house gets 2 on street parking spaces and has an off street barn/garage to park in.

So what is being implied is that the Stony Creek, Islanders and boat slip residents, tour boat tourists, kayaker restaurants, customers, beach, park and library have no parking hardships.

The revised final special hours for the plaintiffs are March-October plus December, Wednesday-Saturday, 4-8 p.m. with violators being towed.

I've said this many times before at these meetings and I'll say it once again. Stony Creek is a parking lot. So there is and always will be extreme hardships for all of us, just not the 3 plaintiffs.

And lastly--I would like to thank Josh Brooks at the RTM for abstaining from voting for special parking and to Ted Ells, the only Board Member to vote no at the last Board meeting.

Janet Wheeler