

February, 2019

Selectman's Office Town of Branford

1019 Main Street

Branford, Ct. 06405

Dear Members of the Board:

We are four months away from a new summer of tourism, church and library functions, park lunches, basketball, swimming at the beach, launching of boats, kayaks and much more. We are all forever growing in our need to encourage safety on our streets and to slow down. One way to promote and create public street safety is to provide some off-street parking and take some off the main street. Creating better site lines to come out of our smaller side roads and a better view of our crosswalks.

First of all, the Congregational Church of Stony Creek for some years now has created one of the first and only off-street parking areas for residential and public parking.

There are **three** other areas in Stony Creek to consider that can provide parking:

The first one: The Fire House and Museum: This could be completed in a short time!

The Fire House/ Museum lot is a town municipal parking area that needs to be striped and marked with signage for public parking (six of the closest spots to the fire house should be Fire Department only spaces.) & one handicap.

The second one:

The Selectman, SCA, TIA etc. could approach Amtrak for (summer) day parking at the railroad yard. It would need additional fencing to prevent access to the tracks but other than that it is paved ,partially fenced and gated.

The Third to consider:

West Point Park Field: Hasn't been used for some 15 years:

More extensive plan but doable in a reasonable amount of time:

A) Gravel the field.

B) Create an entry and exit. Its already fenced in. Day time parking only, Closed at night.

C) Charge a fee to park: Automated card reader, pay for the project, or free public parking.

D) Residents park for free, A Branford sticker as at Branford Point, or the Transfer Station.

This also creates off street parking for boat trailers and Kayaker vehicles. In walking distance for trolley trail, library functions, theater, parks etc.

Last of all: In addition to West Point Park: The Trolley Bridge:

- **Gravel the road to the Trolley Bridge**
- **Put in a launching ramp (pre-fab) for kayakers, (tide will dictate that anyways) and you will reduce in town traffic by 25% + and growing!**

We have all heard some or all of these Ideas before. Nothing new, but all doable. Let this year be the year we go forward with a common goal to make our streets safer and easier to maneuver. Free up our launching ramp a little more. Create more of a walking community from these parking areas instead of driving up and down the side streets to find parking.

Another parking discussion has been the dock parking. The four- and twelve-hour spots that are taken up by kayakers, beach goers but mostly the commercial vehicles. Our safety officers have asked me to mention the commercial parking. The commercial vehicles can be directed to park on the back main street. This will add more available spaces for the Boat Club and Islander parking. Some of the commercial vehicles create an even narrower road due to their length in size. Once they use the load unload area to load the ferry they can go park.

These Ideas are mostly the talk of folks in Stony Creek. Daily conversations at the dock, the eateries, or at many meetings over many years. I hope you all give it some thought, but, with more action this year.

I wish you all a long, fun and safe summer to enjoy what we have here on the shoreline of Branford. Stony Creek is a very special place to every one who lives here and everyone who comes to visit.

Sincerely,

Captain Mike and Family

Sea Mist Thimble Islands Cruise

CC: Thimble Islands Association

Stony Creek Association