



**TOWN OF HUDSON  
PARK COMMISSION**  
Division of Recreation  
Town Hall  
78 Main Street  
Hudson, MA 01749  
978-568-9642

**PARK COMMISSION MEETING – MINUTES**  
**March 24, 2021**  
**Via REMOTE ZOOM at 7:00pm**

*Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Hudson Park Commission meeting will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found below. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of Hudson website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.*

***The Hudson Park Commission meeting will be held via a Zoom Meeting (Internet)***  
***Public Participation via calling in or using your computer is encouraged***

Topic: Park Commission Meeting  
Time: Mar 24, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/91738665600?pwd=ZVpQdFBGeDhYTjcwYzFTNHM3TStnUT09>

Meeting ID: 917 3866 5600  
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### **1. Call Meeting to Order**

Mr. Roan called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Members present were Mr. Roan, Mr. Bowen and Mr. Chaves. Also present: Mr. Santos, Mr. Hannon and Mr. Aponte.

Mr. Roan requested that Mr. Santos read the statement regarding Zoom virtual meetings and Governor Baker's Statement on the Covid-19 virus & Open Meeting Law.

### **2. Minutes to Approve:**

A. Public Session – March 3, 2021

Mr. Bowen motioned to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Chaves and carried...

Vote: 3 – 0, in favor

*...At this time Mr. Roan moved to Agenda Item #7*

### **3. Citizens Issues / Special Interest Groups:**

A. None

### **4. Personnel:**

A. Mr. Santos informed the Commissioners that the Recreation Department is still accepting application for Summer Employment and that the deadline to submit an application is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **5. Director's Report:**

A. Centennial Beach Project Update

Mr. Santos provided an update on the Beach Renovation Project. In general, once the buildings were set in place, everything began to "ramp up". Minor electrical and significant plumbing issues were found after the buildings were set. Fixes are being made and are being paid for by CXT. New sand has been delivered and spread along the beach; Grubbing along the shoreline has been done; 50% of the plantings have been planted; 60%-70% of the concrete from the buildings to the sand area has been completed. Also, after the initial pouring of concrete, some vandalism did occur, as individuals put the initials in the concrete. Initials were removed where possible and consequently staff is now on site until 12am on the days of concrete pours to ensure this does not happen again. Staff is being paid out of revolving account, to cover this cost. Next steps include the installation of wooden guardrails. Asphalt will start to be laid, shortly after plants open on April 5<sup>th</sup>. The project is still on schedule for an opening in June.

### **6. New Business:**

A. None

### **7. Old Business:**

A. Park Commission to receive public input specific to Centennial Beach Summer 2021 Parking Access  
Mr. Santos gave the Park Commission an overview of the number of Day and Season passes sold, along with revenue, over the past 5 years. One average 946 Resident Day Passes, 177 Non-resident Day Passes, 390 Resident Season Passes and 67 Non-resident Season Passes were sold. Residents account for 73% of Day Pass revenue and 74% of Season Pass revenue. Non-residents account for 27% and 26% respectfully. Currently Residents can buy Day Passes 7 days a week at the Beach and Season Passes Monday-Friday at the Recreation Office. Non-residents can buy Day Passes Monday-Friday (not on weekends or holidays) at the Beach and Season Passes Monday-Friday at the Recreation office. Season Passes allow for access to the Beach 7 days a week.

After Mr. Santos concluded, Mr. Roan opened the meeting to public comment.

-Mr. Santos began by reading emails he received from residents who were unable to attend the meeting. Those emails were from Anonymous-Hudson, Andy Horvitz-Hudson, Rebecca MacDonald-Berlin, Barbara Hall-Siktberg-Hudson, Kelly Shultz-Hudson, Margaret Nartowicz-Berlin Town Administrator/Selectboard, Justin Provencher-Hudson, Julie Zieff-Hudson, Kristen Fahey-Hudson, Ed

& Christine Hannon-Hudson, Mady Mullin-Hudson, Cassandra Kearney-Hudson, Kimberly Farrow-Hudson, Jennifer Sullivan-Hudson. *Note: All emails attached to meeting minutes, as part of the public record.*

Next Chairman Roan, asked if anyone else present at the meeting would like to provide comment.

-Diane Maillet, 21 Cayuga Drive. Ms. Maillet recounted two previous occasions where she and several residents approached and met with Internal Traffic Commission (ITC) to discuss traffic issues in and around the beach neighborhood. Ms. Maillet went on to say that the new beach will not create traffic issues but rather add to an existing problem. Conducting her own research Ms. Maillet concluded that Hudson would be the only Town in the area considering allowing both residents and non-residents to access a Town beach this coming summer. This could result in increased traffic, speed, and trash in the area. Ms. Maillet would not deny that some of the issues are caused by Hudson residents. Ms. Maillet was open to allowing non-residents, who signed up for swim lessons to be given access to the beach for the duration of their lessons. In concluding Ms. Maillet stated how lucky and blessed her family is to live in such a neighborhood.

-Jay Kalina, 87 Fort Meadow Drive. Mr. Kalina began by asking about exact revenue figures. Mr. Santos responded and said in 2019 beach parking revenue was \$15,720. Of that, \$12,140 was collected from residents. Mr. Kalina explained how he lives next to the main entrance to the beach and would routinely see cars parking in front of his house, whose occupants would then proceed to go down to the beach. In Mr. Kalina's opinion, Hudson Police was not performing checks often enough to deter this practice. Mr. Kalina went on to say, making the beach Hudson only would strengthen the community bond that existed. In concluding, Mr. Kalina mentioned the rise of violence at the beach, which would typically be reported by residents, who were engaged in "community regulation". According to Mr. Kalina, these incidents mostly involved non-residents. Mr. Kalina and his wife's preference is for Hudson-only in 2021 with the possibility of reevaluating it after this year.

-Ms. Macchiarola, 76 Fort Meadow Drive, followed and echoed much of what Ms. Maillet and Mr. Kalina stated. Ms. Macchiarola stated it was a "scary thought" to think Hudson could be the only nearby community to offer beach access to both residents and non-residents. Ms. Macchiarola went on to say there are a lot of security issues at the beach, especially after hours and that these issues could be resolved with better security, including cameras. Ms. Macchiarola concluded by stating that after all the "beautiful" work that is being done, she would hate to see the beach trashed, and that she supported beach access to all those who were taking part in swim lessons.

-Andrew Massa, 15 Michigan Drive. Mr. Massa began by questioning how it is that people are so perceptive to identify "towners" from "out of towners". Mr. Massa inquired about whether or not the beach ever closes and if so, how often does it happen. Mr. Santos responded by saying the beach does not have a capacity, since it is an open water facility opposed to a pool and is only considered closed when the parking lot is full, which happens no more than 12 times a season, typically on weekends and holidays. Mr. Massa then questioned the extent of no parking on Fort Meadow. Mr. Santos said, while signs are posted, he's not sure of the exact extent of the no parking zone and that for exact details the question should be directed to the Hudson Police Department (HPD) or perhaps ITC. Mr. Santos went on to say, in most cases, it is residents who call HPD to report violators. Mr. Massa expressed a desire to extend the no parking zone to 3x its current length and posed the question "If ITC is aware of the issue, why is there no solution?" Mr. Massa concluded by saying in his opinion Season Passes should be for Hudson residents only.

-Jennifer Concannon, 80 Fort Meadow Drive, spoke next. Ms. Concannon stated by expressing her appreciation for all that has been done to the beach. She then went on to express her opinion that some of the outreach by neighbors, regarding the desire to have beach parking be resident only, has been (wrongly) taken negatively by some. In previous year, she and her neighbors have experienced "bad situations" and a lot of people parking on the road. In her opinion, those parking on the road and not paying a fee to park are the ones not respecting the beach and the surrounding properties. There are a lot of young kids in the neighborhood and Ms. Concannon is worried about their safety, she said. Ms. Concannon also feels bad for the teenage staff who works at the beach because they have to deal with those who don't respect the beach. Ms. Concannon is in favor of resident-only

parking, except for those taking swim lessons. In the end, all she (and her neighbors) wants is for the beach and the surrounding properties to be treated with respect.

-Ms. Kim Farrow, 93 Fort Meadow Drive. Ms. Farrow was surprised by the low non-resident revenue figure that Mr. Santos had presented; an indication that not a lot of non-residents pay to go to the beach. She posed the question, how do we actually know where the trash is coming from?" an stated that her opinion was based on a conversation she had with a Hudson Police officer who told her that when they run the plates of all the cars parked on Fort Meadow, many are not from Hudson.

-Mr. Santos read one final email he received from Michelle Peterson-Hudson, that he had received during the meeting.

Public comment concluded and Mr. Roan opened the floor up to his fellow Commissioners for comment.

Mr. Bowen spoke first and thanked everyone for their comments. He assured those in attendance that the Park Commission would take everything into considering and was willing to talk to ITC and Hudson Police about the issues brought up.

Mr. Chaves spoke next and said it was "great" to receive all the comments and emails. While the conversation seems to lean in one direction, Mr. Chaves stressed that, due to Covid, this year is different, and that it was a good time be reviewing these policies. Mr. Chaves concluded by thanking everyone in attendance.

Mr. Roan then allowed Mr. Santos to speak.

Mr. Santos acknowledged that many of the issues raised go beyond the Park Commission and that the Park Commission and the Recreation Department want to be good neighbors. He went on to say that, hopefully, the renovations made to the beach will attract more Hudson residents to the beach than in years past. He ended by stating that, before any decision is made on policy changes, the latest and yet to be published Covid-19 guidelines have to be taken into consideration and that tonight's discussion is just the beginning of a conversation that will continue into the spring and potentially beyond.

Mr. Roan concluded the discussion by thanking everyone, acknowledging there is a lot to take in and assuring attendees that everything will be taken into consideration.

*...At this time Mr. Roan moved back to Agenda Item #3*

#### **8. Communications and/or Correspondence to be noted by Commissioners:**

A. None

#### **9. Announcements/Adjournment**

Mr. Santos stated that he had recently met with HPS regarding and use of school buildings during the summer months and that while nothing was set in stone, it appeared as Hudson Recreation would be allowed access for summer recreation programs.

Mr. Santos asked the Commission what the next steps should be for agenda item #7. Mr. Bowen stated that many of the issues brought forth tonight although mya be a result of our facility, they are street parking issues. Mr. Chaves stated her felt beach parking in the lot should be limited to residents for the upcoming season but a larger parking problem seems to exist and may need to be addressed. Also that he did not want to send these residents in "circles", as they try to have their concerns addressed.

Mr. Roan stated that at this time he was unsure how much input or how much involvement the Commission should have with moving the street parking concerns forward and he wanted some time to reflect on what was discussed tonight.

Mr. Santos suggested that could send draft meeting minutes to the Police Chief for review and then engage him in a conversation to see how we may be able to work together to address the neighbors' concerns, without comprising the goals and objectives of the department and the new facility. The Commission agreed this would be a good, "next step".

Mr. Chaves stated the he would like to discuss an item related to the Skate Park at an upcoming meeting but would contact Mr. Santos directly to add it to a future meeting.

Mr. Bowen motioned to adjourn at 8:33pm, seconded by Mr. Chaves and carried...

Vote: 3 - 0, in favor

Motion to Approve: Mr. Chaves

Second: Mr. Bowen

Vote: 20-0, in favor

Date: April 14, 2021