

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Minutes - Thursday, May 26, 2011

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Chairperson Tom Ragonese, Dan Silbo, John Rascius and Peter Mozzicato. Also present were Michael Hurley, Town Council Liaison and Kathleen Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation. Ms. Bagley received an email from board member Kevin Rogers informing her that his schedule will not allow him to be a member of the Park Board. He had every intention of making tonight's meeting but could not attend. He thanked the board members for their friendship and professionalism that he experienced on the Board and wishes them his best.

A. Public Comments – None.

B. Minutes – April 28, 2011.

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes of April 28, 2011. The motion was seconded by John Rascius and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – April, 2011.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members. John Rascius commented about the Dog Park receiving the award from the Hartford Advocate naming it the best dog park in the area. He was amazed that we had gone through 200,000 poop bags at the park. He has been in Mill Woods Park at night and noted how busy the park was with softball and baseball games. Chairperson Ragonese noted that Mill Woods Park is our flagship park, and due to the many improvements over the years more people are taking advantage of the park.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Memorial Day Parade.

Chairperson Ragonese reminded Board members of the parade coming up on May 28<sup>th</sup>. A flyer was included in the Board packet with all the information on the parade. Ms. Bagley commented that the Governor Malloy, Lt. Governor Wyman, Senator Blumenthal and state senators and representatives will be marching along with all local dignitaries. Also the Governor's Horse Guard will be in the parade this year.

E. Old Business.

1. Cottone Field Lights Project.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the project is on schedule. He discussed some concerns brought up by a committee member regarding the contractor's ability to use the newly installed light bases for the light poles and lights. Mike Turner, Town Engineer, reviewed these concerns with the Cottone Project Engineer, Bruce Dalkowski, and sent Chairperson Ragonese an email detailing this review. Mr. Turner reported that the contractor, Shock Electric, submitted shop drawings which were processed and approved by Mr. Dalkowski, which show the contractor's ability to meet the specifications. There will be no spillage issues and a photometric plan was submitted which plots the contractor's ability to meet town zoning requirements. Regarding the structural concerns, there is a lesser number of light fixtures being proposed, and hence no problem with Musco using the concrete bases as poured. Musco was out last week measuring up the bolt pattern so a base plate could be fabricated.

2. Willard Pool Filters.

Ms. Bagley provided a brief update on the filter project. Installation on the new filters began today and is on schedule to be completed by June 1<sup>st</sup>. The pool will open June 25<sup>th</sup>.

F. New Business.

1. Mill Woods Parking Lot Expansion.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the Physical Services Division is working on the expansion of the parking lot by the picnic area. This expansion will provide additional parking by the Lighted Little League Field, Fusco Softball Field, picnic area, basketball court and Skate Park. Peter Mozzicato noted that it is now easier to park in that location. Ms. Bagley explained that the parking lot will double in size when completed and a new parking layout will be used. They are soliciting donations for costs of telephone poles to serve as a boundary outline for the middle parking spaces. Mr. Mozzicato was going to check into a donation for the poles. During the meeting, he checked with an individual and it appeared that he can get the donation of poles. He will coordinate with Ms. Bagley about the number of poles needed and the timeframe. Chairperson Ragonese thanked Mr. Mozzicato for working on this item and getting the donation of poles.

G. Board Member Comments.

1. Fuller Field.

Dan Silbo discussed the condition of Fuller field. He reported that a soccer coach played on the field when conditions were very wet and muddy and did some damage to the field. He notified Parks and Recreation and they contacted the Soccer Club to remind coaches not to play if the fields will sustain damage. Peter Mozzicato noted that Little League now sends out emails to its coaches canceling all games when weather conditions necessitate staying off the fields.

2. Wilkus Farm Open Space.

Chairperson Ragonese asked about the status of Wilkus Farm open space property owned by the Town. He asked if it was open to the public and how the Town was managing this property. Mr. Hurley reported that the Town Council has reviewed recommendations on the uses of this property from a committee set up by the Town Council. The Town is finalizing all the details of the purchase of the property and once these are all completed the Town Council will be determining the property uses. The property is open for people to walk on and enjoy the open space at this time. Ms. Bagley reported that one of the recommendations is to have the Parks and Recreation Department oversee the property.

3. Parks and Recreation Budget.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley about the status of the Parks and Recreation Department budget for fiscal year 2011-12. Ms. Bagley reported that the department budget was approved as presented to the Park Board with some minor changes to the benefits accounts based on new numbers from the Town Manager's office. No changes are anticipated in any of our programs or events for the next fiscal year.

4. Granite Bench at High School.

John Rascius reported that a granite bench had been installed at the high school near the track. He thought it might have been vandalized and removed from the high school. He asked Ms. Bagley to check into the status of the bench. She will get back to him.

H. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Dan Silbo and seconded by John Rascius to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department