

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Minutes - Thursday, October 28, 2010

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, Tom Pentalow, Charlie Wood, John Rascius and Dan Silbo. Also present Michael Hurley, Town Council Liaison and Kathleen Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – September 23, 2010.

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes of September 23, 2010. The motion was seconded by Tom Pentalow and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – September 2010.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members. Charlie Wood asked about the revenue generated by the boat fees for Cove Boat Launch facility. Ms. Bagley reported that the fees generated about \$20,000 for this past boating season.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Children's Halloween Party – the Parks and Recreation Department is holding their annual Children's Halloween Party on Sunday, October 31 from 2:00-4:00 pm. at the Community Center.
2. Haunted Pumpkin Patch – the Friend's of the Nature Center are sponsoring a haunted pumpkin patch at the Nature Center on October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00 pm., October 30<sup>th</sup> from noon – 8pm. and October 31<sup>st</sup> from noon to 5 pm.

E. Old Business.

1. Harbor Management Commission

Chairperson Ragonese provided an overview of the Board's decision last month to ask the Town Council to appoint the Park Board as the Town's Harbor Management Commission. Board members discussed the memo sent by Ms. Bagley to the Town Manager explaining this request. The memo was included in the Board members' packet for this meeting. Charlie Wood had some questions regarding this proposal. He wanted to make sure the responsibilities of the Harbor Management Commission would be appropriate for the Parks and Recreation Board. Board members explained that they reviewed all the proposed responsibilities and felt that these responsibilities parallel what the Board currently does for Cove Park. Councilor Hurley noted that the process for this proposal would include a review by a subcommittee of the Town Council, the Town Attorney and then the entire Town Council. Board members were very supportive of this request because it would demonstrate the Town's commitment to managing and protecting the resources of the Wethersfield Cove and greatly enhance the Town's opportunities to receive financial support (grants) and other support for maintaining and improving the Cove. Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Manager will be reviewing her memo and getting back to her on a timetable for this process.

2. Cove Docks Permit Process with CT. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Ms. Bagley reported that a pre application meeting for this project was held this afternoon to review the preliminary application sent to them by our engineering consultant, Ocean and Coastal. Individuals present at this meeting were a DEP representative, Town staff, Ocean and Coastal engineers and the deputy harbormaster. This meeting identified additional items needed for the application for the new docks and boat launch ramp. The engineering consultant and Town staff will prepare these requested items for the application and it will then be submitted to the State. Review process at the State level could take from 6 months to one year. Question came up about the funds available in the Cove Preservation Fund. This fund collects all the boating fees and the money is spent on improvements for

Cove Park. Ms. Bagley reported that the fund has approximately \$100,000 and the plan is to use these funds to help pay for the new docks. The Wethersfield Yacht Club held a fundraiser booth at the Corn Fest and donated those funds (\$280.66) to the new docks. A thank you letter will be sent to them.

Ms. Bagley also reported that Parks and Recreation staff had a meeting with a representative from the Army Corps of Engineers and the State Department of Transportation to discuss dredging the channel in the Cove. The meeting discussed procedures for the dredging and fundraising opportunities to fund this project. One suggestion was to combine the channel dredging, new docks and boat launch ramp into one project. All possibilities will be explored and she will keep Board members posted on this project.

F. New Business.

1. Cottone Field Fundraising Campaign for Lights.

Chairperson Ragonese reported on the re-establishment of this committee to raise funds for completing the lighting project at Cottone field. The estimated project cost is \$257,000; they raised \$163,270 to date. Now, they are doing a pledge drive to work at funding the remainder of the project. They started a pledge drive at the football game on October 22. To date the committee has raised approximately \$13,000 from about 130 families. Their next meeting is Nov. 1 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. New members are welcome to join the committee. Charlie Wood asked about the foot candles for the lights. Chairperson Ragonese reported that the design calls for 70 foot candles. Mr. Wood suggested looking at 50 foot candles and it might save some money. Chairperson Ragonese noted that the committee is researching this issue. Everyone agreed that lights on the field would provide the opportunity for more parents, families and students to attend these games. The committee is soliciting more pledges and donations and looking at other ways to fund the lights.

2. Mill Woods Parking Lot Expansion by the lighted Little League field

Ms. Bagley showed Board members the design for the expanded parking lot adjacent to the lighted Little League field. They reviewed the plan and asked the timetable for Town approvals. The Inland Wetlands Commission has approved the plan and it will go to the Tree Commission on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> and the Planning and Zoning Commission on November 16.

G. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Charlie Wood and seconded by Tom Pentalow to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department