

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Minutes - Thursday, April 22, 2010

The meeting was held at the Town Hall and called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Tom Ragonese. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Richard Lepore, Tom Pentalow and Charlie Wood. Also present was Kathleen Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

No comments.

B. Minutes – March 25, 2010.

Richard Lepore moved to approve the minutes of March 25, 2010. The motion was seconded by Tom Pentalow and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – March 2010.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members.

D. Letters and Announcements.

A letter was received from Mary Daversa requesting permission to hold a fundraiser band concert at Cove Park on August 14, 2010 from 3:00 – 8:00 pm. The concert will benefit Mikey's Place playground and is being organized by members of the Mikey's Place committee. The special event will include local bands and vocalists who have expressed an interest in benefiting Mikey's Place with a special evening for all ages to enjoy music. The committee will work with the Parks and Recreation staff to cover all the details of this event. Board members had no problem with this request. Richard Lepore moved to approve a fundraising concert for Mikey's Place playground at Cove Park on August 14, 2010. The motion was seconded by Charlie Wood and voted unanimously.

E. Old Business.

1. New Little League Field – Press Box Status.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the Press Box is almost complete. Volunteers will do the final installation for the lift and some additional carpentry work.

2. Status of 2010-11 Budget.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Council is still reviewing the budget. The target date for completion is May 15. At this time, no changes have been made to the Parks and Recreation budget.

F. New Business.

1. Little League Meeting at Highcrest Field.

Chairperson Ragonese, Kathy Bagley and Marty Sitler met with Little League representatives at Highcrest Field to discuss field availability for the start of their season. Little League representatives asked if fields were ready for practices. Chairperson Ragonese explained that all fields had not been prepared yet, but that Little League could use them for practice. Little League thought if the fields were not prepared, they could not use them for practice. This misunderstanding was cleared up at the meeting. Ms. Bagley asked Little League to submit their game schedules for the fields so that the maintenance staff could prep the fields for each game day. Chairperson Ragonese reported that this meeting helped to clear up some misunderstanding in regard to field use.

2. Spring Field Preparations.

Chairperson Ragonese gave Board members an update on field preparations. He noted that with the great weather, Town staff were able to work on the fields to get them ready for the spring season. Staff estimated that they were about two weeks ahead in field preparations as in past years because of the weather being sunny and hot. Chairperson Ragonese told Board members that the fields renovated this past fall were in good shape for the start of the spring season. These fields included Webb baseball, Greenfield softball and the Lighted Little League baseball field. The Little League Mill Woods classic field will need some infield material, but that field will be ready for play shortly. Ms. Bagley reported that Dr. Dest is working with Parks Supervisor, Bob Bauer, to investigate the water not draining off a small area of right field at the lighted Little League field. Test holes have been dug to determine water levels in this area. Once they identify the issue, Dr. Dest will recommend a solution.

Board members discussed the trees that had come down during the tornado in June 2009 in the parks. Ms. Bagley reported that most of the fallen trees that impacted park facilities and trails had been cleared. Some trees were cut and moved off trails or removed from the park. Other trees that fell in wooded areas were made safe and left in place. One Board member mentioned that a tree was still lying across a path in Wintergreen Woods behind Emerson School. Ms. Bagley will notify maintenance staff to remove this tree.

3. Mill Woods Parking Lot & Playscape.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Engineering staff are designing an extension of the existing parking lot located adjacent to the picnic area and the lighted Little League field. The plan is to construct this parking lot extension with the \$25,000 in CIP funds.

Parks and Recreation staff are developing designs for the replacement of the playscape in Mill Woods Park. This playscape was damaged beyond repair during the June 2009 tornado. The Town's insurance company has authorized payment for this replacement.

4. Wintergreen Woods Dam.

Ms. Bagley informed the Board that the Conservation Commission will be researching the history of the dam in Wintergreen Woods. The dam is beginning to break up and a discussion started on how to repair it. The Conservation Commission is looking into why the dam was installed in the first place and will then make recommendations on repairing it.

G. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Tom Pentalow and seconded by Charlie Wood to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department