

## **Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - Thursday, June 26, 2008**

Prior to the start of this meeting a tour was held at the Community Center to view the renovation of the east wing. This wing is being renovated for the 9/11 Memorial Sports Center. Park Board members took this tour with members of the Community Center Building Committee. They were joined by the contractors and architect for this project. Committee members toured the almost completed gymnasium, fitness room and new meeting room. Board members went outside to see the new entrances and exterior work. Board members were impressed with the renovation. Work should be completed in July.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:30 p.m. at the William J. Pitkin Community Center. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Dan Silbo, Rich Lepore, Charlie Wood and Kevin Rogers. Also present was Kathleen Bagley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department.

### A. Public Comments.

None.

### B. Minutes May 22, 2008.

Richard Lepore moved to approve [the minutes of May 22, 2008](#). The motion was seconded by Dan Silbo and voted unanimously.

### C. Monthly Report.

The May 2008 Monthly Report was reviewed by members. Board members commented on the Memorial Day Parade. They thought it was a good parade with a lot of people marching. Many spectators lined the parade route.

### D. Letters and Announcements.

#### 1. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Member List.

This list was reviewed by committee members. Some changes were made to the list and it will be updated.

### E. Old Business.

#### 1. Mill Woods Park Building Committee.

Chairperson Ragonese reported on the status of this project. The Town opened four bids for the construction of the Little League field. Simscroft-Echo Farms of Simsbury, Connecticut was the low bidder with a base bid of \$579,990. The Building Committee has made a recommendation to the Town Council to award the construction of the Little League field to Simscroft-Echo Farms for the base bid and alternate #4 for the construction of the dugouts for an additional \$48,500, with a the total cost for this project of \$628,490. Charlie Wood asked about the press box and if the elevator was needed inside the press box. Ms. Bagley explained that the press box was designed with the lift in it. However, the Building Committee did not accept that alternate because funds are not available at this time. Charlie Wood suggested building an exterior ramp instead of having an elevator inside the building. Chairperson Ragonese said he would discuss this suggestion with the Mill Woods Building Committee. Ms. Bagley explained that the Building Committee will be looking at other ways to build the press box. She has spoken with board member Peter Kalousdian and he offered to help with the purchase of the lift for this building. Chairperson Ragonese reported that the Building Committee is talking with Little League about ways to fund the lights for this new field. They will be working with

Little League to determine the best method to get the lights on the field.

2. Community Center Renovation.

Board Members witnessed the progress of the renovation at their tour prior to this meeting. Ms. Bagley reported that the Keane Foundation and the town have just received some additional grant funding for this project. The Keane Foundation received a \$20,000 grant from the State of Connecticut for furnishings for the meeting room and the town received a \$15,000 grant from the State of Connecticut through the offices of Senator Paul Doyle for fitness equipment for the new fitness room. The Keane Foundation received a \$25,000 grant from AT&T for technology improvements in the east wing of the building.

3. Webb School Carnival.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to report on the carnival at Webb school. She explained that the town had roped off the ballfield areas and the carnival rides stayed away from these areas. To date, she has not had any reports of damage to the ballfields. Chairperson Ragonese was pleased to hear this news and asked Ms. Bagley if the carnival was successful. Ms. Bagley had not heard anything today, but will check with the organizers to find out how attendance was for the carnival.

4. Naming of Mill Woods Park Road After Dick Dobmeier.

Chairperson Ragonese reminded Board members that at their last meeting Dan Smith had asked to have the Mill Woods Park Road named after previous Board Chairman Dick Dobmeier. The Board was supportive and asked Mr. Smith to check with the family and come back with some suggestions about the road name. Mr. Smith got back to Ms. Bagley and told her that the family wanted to name the Park Road Dick Dobmeier Lane. She will work with Mr. Smith and with town staff to develop some proposed sketches for the sign. These sketches will be reviewed with Mr. Smith, the family and the Park Board. The Park Board will then make a recommendation to the Town Council.

F. New Business.

1. Groundbreaking Ceremony for Little League Field.

Chairperson Ragonese discussed possible dates for a groundbreaking ceremony for the Little League Field. He explained that the contractor will be ready to work in a few weeks and it would be appropriate to hold the groundbreaking ceremony prior to construction. Committee members discussed the week of July 7-10 as possible dates for a groundbreaking ceremony. Ms. Bagley will work with Chairperson Ragonese to set up a date and get the word out to all the Board members. Invited guests will include Town Council members, the Mayor and State Senator Paul Doyle for his work on securing the grant for this field.

2. Sponsor Signs at Little League Field.

Board members asked about the status of the sponsor signs at the Little League Field. Ms. Bagley reported that Little League has put up sponsor signs at the Little League Stadium in Mill Woods Park. The signs are very attractive and blend in with the outfield fence.

3. Bike Trail.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Heritage Way Bike Trail under construction in the month of June is almost complete. This Bike Trail was constructed by Physical Services staff using funds from a state grant. The Bike Trail now runs from the 1860 Reservoir to Mill Woods Park, over to the Community Center and then to Cove Park. From Cove Park it goes through the Wethersfield Meadows to the Rocky Hill town line. The trail is almost completed and it will be open to the public in the very near future.

4. CIP Projects Funded for Next Year.

The Town Council has funded the following Park and Recreation projects for the upcoming fiscal year.

\$75,000 Construction of the Little League Baseball Field

\$25,000 Re-caulk Willard Pool

\$78,000 Driveway Loop for the Community Center Renovation

G. Adjournment.

Charlie Wood moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion seconded by Rich Lepore and voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Bagley, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department