

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - Thursday, October 23, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Thomas Ragonese in Conference Room #1 at Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Ragonese, Richard Lepore, and Daniel Silbo. Also present were Kathleen Bagley, Director, and Salvatore Cucia, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department. Committee Member Kevin Rogers arrived at 7:20 p.m. and Council Liaison Jeff Kotkin arrived at 7:40 p.m.

A. Public Comments.

No public comments.

B. Minutes - [September 25, 2008](#).

Rich Lepore moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Dan Silbo and voted unanimously.

C. Monthly Report.

Monthly report was reviewed by Board Members.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Letters were received by individuals, including Chairperson Ragonese, in regards to an application pending before the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the use of the Broad Street Green as a parking lot by a private business located at 185 Broad Street. Ms. Bagley presented the board with a history of events that began approximately one year ago. She read the Planning and Zoning Board's letter dated November 20, 2007 approving Silas W. Robbins Bed & Breakfast request for a permit to host special events at 185 Broad Street, subject to stipulations. The permit has expired and the Bed & Breakfast is applying for a revised permit. A copy of Silas W. Robbins House request for a new permit was obtained from the Town's Economic Development Director and read to Board members. Their request included a number of changes over last year's permit. Discussion followed by board members. The Board members felt the issue needed to be addressed first by the Planning & Zoning Commission, since the initial concerns were addressed last year when the first application was submitted. No action was taken by the Board. Ms. Bagley indicated the application for the Silas W. Robbins House was to go before the Planning and Zoning Commission on November 5, 2008, but has been moved to the December meeting.

E. Old Business.

1. Mill Woods Little League Stadium - Project Status.

Chairperson Ragonese gave an update on the status of the project. He indicated the project is moving along well - the footings are in for the dugout, poles are in for the lighting, the scoreboard has arrived and will need to be installed, electrical work is being accomplished, and irrigation lines are being installed. In general, unless something unforeseen happens, Little League will be playing next spring.

Ms. Bagley informed the committee that the contractor plans to install turf on October 30th. Ms. Bagley will be working with a Fundraising Committee to try and fund the other alternates for this project.

2. Cottone Field Lights.

Ms. Bagley reported that the efforts to have permanent lights at Cottone Field is awaiting official word from the State that the grant will be awarded to the Town before proceeding with the project.

3. Cove Docks.

Ms. Bagley indicated that she was looking for feedback from the Board on the Cove Park Dock Plan. There were two concerns Ms. Bagley presented to the Board. The first was whether or not the Boardwalk to the Floating Dock would be necessary if the intent would be to close off the Cove during extremely high water because of inaccessibility to parking, etc. The Boardwalk would only encourage people to use the Cove during high water. Currently the plan calls for the docks to include three phases: (1) Main Dock, (2) Boat Ramp and (3) Movable Float. If the Boardwalk was eliminated, the project could be accomplished in two phases, cost less, and eliminate the concern of individuals using the Cove during extremely high water. The second concern was at the turnaround to the new Boat Ramp; wanting to make sure there was ample room for a large boat to turn around and back up into the water. Discussion followed and the Board agreed the Boardwalk should be eliminated and that the turnaround should be discussed with the architect. Ms. Bagley indicated she would talk to the architect on both issues.

F. New Business.

The Board asked about the Greenfield Basketball Court. Ms. Bagley reported the asphalt work has been completed and the contractor is now working on sealing and color coating the court. However, the weather has been too cold to apply the sealer and color coat. They are awaiting 50° weather and hope to be able to accomplish their tasks within the next few days.

G. Board Member Comments.

Dan Silbo asked about the status of the windows at the Community Center. Ms. Bagley informed the Board that the windows for the Banquet Room, Fireside Room and the hallway between the two rooms will begin once a State Grant for \$75,000 is officially received from the state. The anticipation is that we will receive the grant and only await official notification.

H. Adjournment.

Rich Lepore moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dan Silbo and voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Salvatore Cucia, Assistant Director
Parks and Recreation Department