

## **Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - Thursday, December 15, 2005**

This meeting was held at the Solomon Welles House at 7:00 p.m. and opened by Chairperson Richard Dobmeier. Members present were Chairperson Dobmeier, Dan Silbo, Thomas Ragonese, Charles Wood, Council Liaison Andrew Adil and Kathleen Bagley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department.

### **A. Public Comments.**

A member of the public, Paul Thompson, addressed Board members on a "no smoking" policy for town parks and athletic fields. Mr. Thompson explained that he would like the Board and the town to consider looking at a "no smoking" policy in the town's outdoor facilities. He explained he was at a baseball game where adults were smoking during the game and also he was at Mikey's Place and noticed the amount of cigarette butts around the gazebo in the park. He would like to see the town designate all their properties smoke free. He recognizes that this process will take some time and will need to consider penalties/fines and enforcement. Ms. Bagley reported that they did query other towns in Connecticut and got responses back from some towns on their policies. She reported that many towns do not have a "no smoking" policy; however, by state law, school department property is smoke free and prohibits the use of any tobacco product. Board members discussed the pros and cons of this issue and asked Ms. Bagley to provide additional information regarding a "no smoking" policy. She reported that she will talk with the Health District to see if they have any information that could help in this process. Board members felt it would be difficult to enforce a policy of this nature because some of the park rules currently are difficult to enforce, for example, picking up after your dog, dogs on a leash, etc. However, Board members asked Ms. Bagley to develop more information and continue to watch what other towns in the area are looking to do in the future. Mr. Thompson thanked Board members for listening to him and is willing to work with them to develop this policy.

### **B. Minutes - [October 27](#) and [November 17, 2005](#).**

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

### **C. Monthly Report.**

Monthly report was reviewed. Board members asked about the tri-town pool pass. Ms. Bagley reported that they are working with Newington and Rocky Hill to allow residents with a season pool pass to be able to visit any town pool within these three towns. Her staff will be monitoring this use in the coming months and she will provide a report to the Board if residents are visiting any of the town pools.

### **D. Letters and Announcements.**

No letters and announcements.

### **E. Old Business.**

#### **1. No Smoking Policy - Town Parks.**

This item was covered under Public Comments.

### **F. New Business.**

#### **1. Capital Improvement Program 2006-2007.**

Ms. Bagley distributed copies of the Capital Improvement Program for Parks and Recreation for the next ten years. She reminded Board members that the department was funded for this year's capital improvement projects for the Community Center gym floor, renovations for Channel 14 to move to

the Community Center and repair of basketball and tennis courts in town. The gym floor received \$60,000, the renovation of Community Center rooms for Channel 14 received \$40,000 and the basketball and tennis courts received \$28,000. Board members reviewed the list of projects for fiscal year 2006-2007. Nine projects were included on the list. Solomon Welles House sewer line replacement, Mill Woods beach drainage improvements, Community Center replacement of curtains, high school tennis court repair, Mill Woods Master Plan design fee, Cove Park dock replacement, Greenfield playground basketball court, Solomon Welles House parking lot and Willard Pool parking lot. Board members reviewed this list of projects and discussed the priority for these projects. Ms. Bagley gave Board members an overview of each project and her department's thoughts on priorities. Board members felt that funding for the Mill Woods Master Plan Phase I should be listed as a project for 2006-2007. This project had shown up for fiscal year 2007-2008, but Board members moved it to the project list for 2006-2007. Board members discussed these priorities and listed below is their priority list.

1. Mill Woods Master Plan Design.
2. Solomon Welles House sewer line replacement.
3. Mill Woods beach drainage improvements
4. Community Center curtain replacement.
5. High school tennis courts repair.
6. Cove Park dock replacement.
7. Greenfield basketball court replacement.
8. Solomon Welles House parking lot.
9. Willard Pool parking lot.
10. Mill Woods Master Plan Phase I.

Board members discussed the advisability of replacing the stage curtains at the Community Center and asked Ms. Bagley to determine the need for the stage curtain. They asked her to consider instead of a stage curtain some type of a partition for the stage or something along that line. Ms. Bagley will look into this suggestion.

#### G. Adjournment.

Tom Ragonese moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Charles Wood and voted unanimously.