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Wethersfield Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
Mill Woods Master Plan Committee
Minutes - June 17, 2004

Ms. Bagley opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Members in attendance were Bill Smyers, Peter Gardow, Wes Sargent, Richard Lepore, Jeff Kotkin, Martha Mayer and Mary Ellen Bonelli. Also in attendance were Recreation and Parks staff Salvatore Cucia, Assistant Director, Marty Sitler, Recreation Supervisor and Kathleen Bagley, Director.

1. Public Comments.
No comments.
2. [Minutes - May 20, 2004](#).
Minutes were approved.

Ms. Bagley reported that Tom Ragonese called and informed her that he was not able to make tonight's meeting. With the consent of the committee, Ms. Bagley volunteered to run the meeting.

3. Old Business.

A. Update on Dest Soil Study.

Ms. Bagley reported that she and Martha Mayer met with Mr. Dest at Mill Woods Park to discuss his soil study. They brought up the committee's concerns regarding charging for attendance at meetings and the location of the test site holes around the park. Mr. Dest explained that the charge for attending a meeting would be for a formal meeting, not a meeting to give a report to the Advisory Park Board or to the Master Plan Committee. He also explained that the location of the test holes will be done in cooperation with town staff and the known history of the soil. Martha Mayer explained that he would be looking to analyze soil samples by using a double ring infiltrometer as a method to analyze the soil. Mr. Dest explained that this type of analysis is more accurate than the laboratory testing. Committee members asked about the location of the holes, as it would impact the use of fields. Mrs. Mayer reported that they will dig the hole in the day and then by the evening the hole would be covered, the sod put back and the field would be playable for the evening. A suggestion was made to videotape the process. Ms. Bagley will look to get a digital camera or video camera to record this process. Committee members were satisfied with the answers to their questions and suggested moving forward with the report. Ms. Bagley explained that Mr. Dest was available to do the study in July. She also reported that the Recreation and Parks Department has on hand approximately \$4,900 to put towards the study. These funds were received from people paying a permit fee for the use of town fields. Committee members thought that this amount of money should be used towards the study and a request should be made to Little League and to the Ritchie Soccer organization to ask them for a donation of \$2,000 per organization to help fund the study cost of \$8,550. Mr. Kotkin reported that he would check with Little League and get their approval for the donation of \$2,000. Ms. Bagley will contact the Ritchie Soccer organization to see if they would be interested in donating towards the study. Committee members agreed that this study was the first step to build the fields in Mill Woods Park. The understanding of the soil will allow the committee to make decisions based on the type of construction necessary for each field to be considered in the Mill Woods Master Plan. Mr. Dest will be able to give recommendations on drainage and irrigation issues for the construction of these fields with the results of this soil study. Mrs. Mayer mentioned we will still need to do some monitoring of wells throughout the park to study the water movement. Mr. Dest will give us some suggestions on this process, but it is not part of his study.

B. Fundraising.

Mary Ellen Bonelli reported that she is in the process of putting ideas together for fundraising for the Mill Woods Master Plan. At this time, Ms. Bagley reported that a resolution has been introduced at the Town

Council for funding for municipal infrastructure projects. One of the items being considered is Phase I of the Mill Woods Master Plan for 4.1 million dollars. This resolution will be discussed at the Council meeting on June 22. Ms. Bagley encouraged any members to speak at the meeting on this issue.

C. Status of Cell Tower.

Ms. Bagley reported that the town and the vendor for the cell tower have been talking about different locations for the cell tower. They are identifying other locations at higher elevations. Mill Woods Park is at a lower elevation in that section of town.

4. New Business.

A. Funds Available for Soil Study.

This item already discussed.

B. Possible Referendum Question.

This item was discussed under "Fundraising."

C. Publicity.

Committee members suggested getting publicity for the work of the committee as they move forward. One suggestion was to do a press release on the soil study and the donations for its funding.

D. Bill Smyers Report on his Irrigation Study.

Bill Smyers reported that he is working on this study. He and Ms. Bagley have talked about the possibility of using an area in the park as a field study. Ms. Bagley reported that she passed this information to her parks maintenance supervisor and he will discuss it with Mr. Smyers.

E. Committee members canceled their July meeting. They felt that a meeting could be held if there was additional information. Committee members also asked to be e-mailed on the dates Bill Dest will be doing the field study in the park. Committee members were interested in watching some of the process.

5. Adjournment.

Committee members moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.