

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board  
Harbor Management Commission  
Minutes - Thursday, March 26, 2015

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Rich Lepore, Tom Mull and Dan Silbo. Also present were Mike Hurley, Town Council Liaison and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – February 26, 2015.

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Mull and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – February 2015.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by board members.

D. Letters and Announcements.

None.

E. Old Business.

1. Charter Revision Commission Recommendations.

Chairperson Ragonese explained to Board members the issue with the recommendation from the Charter Revision Commission about the Advisory Parks and Recreation Board. The Charter Revision Commission has recommended that the Advisory Parks and Recreation Board become a policy making board. Chairperson Ragonese noted that in their board packet was a copy of the October 23, 2014 Park Board minutes when the Board voted to stay an advisory board and a copy of the Charter Revision minutes of January 15, 2015 when they voted to have the Park Board become a policy making board. Chairperson Ragonese reminded board members that they were asked by the Charter Revision Commission last fall to give their input on whether the Park Board should be an advisory board or a policy making board. All Park board members voted that they should be an advisory board. The results of this vote were sent to the Charter Revision Commission. The Charter Revision Commission did not follow the Park board's recommendation. Chairman Ragonese asked board members to accompany him to the Charter Revision Commission meeting being held tonight at 7:00 p.m. upstairs in the Council Chambers to express their disagreement with the Charter Revision Commission recommendation. Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to speak at this public hearing on the Charter Revision Commission's recommendations and explain the director's role with the Park Board. Board members agreed to attend the Charter Revision Commission meeting at the conclusion of the Park Board meeting.

2. FY 2015-16 Proposed Budget.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to review the proposed budget. She explained that salaries and benefits have increased due to contractual obligations. Most of the other line items have remained the same. Board members discussed the budget line items.

3. Skate Park Repair Project.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to review the process of selecting the contractor to repair the Skate Park. Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Council awarded the contract to Rampage, LLC, Bridgeport, CT. She explained that this company proposed a complete and thorough repair of the concrete bottom of the Skate Park. Their cost is \$37,395. The Town received proposals from six firms: four firms were interviewed and only one firm, Rampage had experience repairing and building concrete Skate Parks. They were not the low cost of the proposals, but they had the most experience to repair the Skate Park. The proposal with the lowest cost was \$32,240. The contractor will start when the weather is appropriate for pouring concrete.

F. New Business.

1. Heritage Walk Sign Locations.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to explain the Heritage Walk sign locations. Ms. Bagley presented a map of the different parks where the signs will be placed. These signs will tell stories about the town history. Signs will be located in Cove Park, Standish Park, Broad Street Green and Main Street. Ms. Bagley reviewed the sign locations and showed a drawing of the signs. Board members had no problem with the interpretive signs or the park locations for the signs. Board members thought the signs would be a nice enhancement in town and asked when they would be installed. Ms. Bagley will find out the installation schedule and report back to the Board members.

2. Cove Boating Report 2014 Season.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the boating report with members. He reminded members that Mr. Steve Randall, a town resident had come to previous board meetings supporting no launching fees for canoes and kayaks. Chairperson Ragonese noted that the board will be reviewing the launching fees for the 2016 boating season. The new docks will be installed for the 2015 boating season and then they can discuss changing fees for the next boating season.

G. Board Member Comments.

1. Chairperson Ragonese reported that he attended a meeting with representatives from Little League and town staff to discuss the concerns for the upcoming season. He appreciated the exchange of ideas and thought the meeting was productive. Little League representatives will be working with the Parks and Recreation staff for field coordination for their youth baseball/softball program.

2. Ms. Bagley informed Board members that she had a meeting with residents interested in naming Mill Woods Softball Field #2 after Grant Stanton. He was a town resident who played men's softball and passed away two years ago. This group has set up an organization to remember Mr. Stanton and possibly raise funds to construct a bridge connecting Softball Field #1 & 2. They will be coming to a future Board meeting to discuss their plans.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Cove Docks Project.

Ms. Bagley reported that the town received three bids for the dock project. The engineering firm is currently reviewing the bids. The bids came in within the project budget. Plan is to submit a recommendation to the Town Council at their April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

2. Glastonbury's Request for Slow-No Wake signs in Connecticut River.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed Glastonbury's request for installing Slow-No Wake signs in the Connecticut River on the Town of Wethersfield side. He referenced Board member, Bill Leonard's suggestion that these signs are for safety and they will protect boaters launching at the Glastonbury ramp. Mr. Leonard had no objections but suggested an annual waiver could be required that would protect own rights if changes necessitated Wethersfield revoking the approval for the placement of the buoys. Tom Mull moved that the Harbor Management Commission had no objections to the agreement for placement of the Slow-No Wake signs on the Wethersfield side of the Connecticut River but recommended an annual waiver be required that would protect our rights if changes necessitated Wethersfield revoking the approval for the placement of the buoys. The motion was seconded by Dan Silbo and passed unanimously.

3. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the report with Commission members. He asked Ms. Bagley the status of the boat agreement with the MDC. Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Manager has sent the agreement to the MDC and is waiting to hear back from them. Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to keep the Commission updated on the process.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

Richard Lepore moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Tom Mull and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director