

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, October 22, 2015

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order by Acting Chairperson Richard Lepore at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Michael Bisi, Bill Derech, Richard Lepore, Tom Mull, John Rascius and Dan Silbo. Also present were Mike Hurley, Council Liaison, Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Interview for Deputy Harbormaster Position.

Acting Chairperson Lepore welcomed Mr. Anthony Ruggiero, Andover, CT to the meeting. Members asked a series of questions for Mr. Ruggiero based on the responsibilities of the Deputy Harbormaster position. Mr. Ruggiero answered all the questions thoroughly and thanked the Commission for their consideration of him for this position. Chairperson Lepore explained that Commission members will discuss this position later in the meeting. Chairperson Lepore thanked Mr. Ruggiero for attending the meeting and speaking about his qualifications for this position. Mr. Ruggiero left the meeting at this time.

B. Minutes – September 24, 2015.

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2015 meeting with the following correction. Mr. Derech did not attend the September 24, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Mull and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – September 2015.

Board members reviewed the monthly report. Mr. Mull asked which fields are used for fall baseball. Ms. Bagley replied that Stillman baseball field (Babe Ruth) and Mill Woods classic field (Little League) are used for fall baseball. She reported that Montanaro soccer field drainage work has been completed. A question came up if this field received irrigation too. Ms. Bagley will check if irrigation had been installed on the field.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Haunted Habitat “The Treasure Keeper” at Nature Center – October 23-25.
2. Children’s Halloween Party at Community Center – October 25.
3. Revised Membership List – distributed to members.

E. Old Business.

1. Cove Boat Launching Fees.

Acting Chairperson Lepore reviewed the Cove boat launch fee recommendations from the Parks and Recreation staff. The fees recommended are:

- a. No change to power boat fees, but jet skis pay same fee as power boats.
- b. No fee for canoes and kayaks.
- c. Season launch fee for non-residents for power boats and jet skis be reduced from \$200 to \$150.
- d. Mooring fees – eliminate fee packages for purchasing town mooring or mooring space with tender cleat (dock ring). Allow boaters to pick what services they need – town mooring, mooring space or tender cleat.
- e. Change the resident fee for tender cleat (dock ring) from \$70 to \$75.

Board members noted that these fees were similar to area towns with boat launch facilities. A motion was made by Tom Mull and seconded by Dan Silbo to approve the recommended 2016 fee changes for the Cove boat launch facility and send this proposal to the Town Council for their action. Motion passed unanimously.

F. New Business.

None.

G. Board Member Comments.

None.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Deputy Harbormaster Position.

Acting Chairperson Lepore opened discussion on Mr. Ruggiero's interview for Deputy Harbormaster. Commission members felt he was qualified to be the next Deputy Harbormaster. He was experienced in boating procedures and safety regulations. He has taken and passed the State's safe boating course. Mr. Mull noted that he is knowledgeable, interested in the job and knows boating. Mr. Bisi felt that he handled the enforcement question appropriately and would know how to approach people boating on the water. Mr. Forsdick explained that he has a state manual on Harbormaster responsibilities and has shared that with Mr. Ruggiero. Since Mr. Ruggiero lives in Andover, the question came up if he would be able to travel to Wethersfield for the Deputy Harbormaster responsibilities. His response was that he works in Wethersfield at the Department of Motor Vehicles and it takes only about 20 minutes for him to get to work. Commission members agreed that he is a good candidate for this position. Tom Mull moved to recommend Anthony Ruggiero as Deputy Harbormaster for Wethersfield. The motion was seconded by Mike Bisi and passed unanimously. Commission members asked that Chairman Tom Ragonese follow the necessary steps to submit this appointment to the Governor's office.

Commission members asked what the compensation from the State is for the Harbormaster and Deputy Harbormaster. Mr. Forsdick reported that the Harbormaster gets \$600 and the Deputy Harbormaster gets \$300 from the State.

2. Harbormaster Report.

Acting Chairperson Lepore reviewed the Harbormaster report with members. Mr. Forsdick provided a summary of the work of the last month. He reviewed his report with members. He noted that seven boats were approved to stay at anchor for a while longer. He has removed all the pennants from the mooring for winter storage. He will be heading to Florida for the winter months and asked members if they still needed a report from him over the winter. Commission members decided not to have a Harbormaster report over the winter.

Mr. Mull asked how the new docks will work during high water. Mr. Forsdick explained that as the water rises, the dock sections will be moved into place to encroach on the road as it goes under water. These dock sections are already attached to the new docks and currently make the new docks wider as you walk out on them. When needed these sections will be move into position to allow people to access docks during high water. The docks will also have reflective tape on the docks so if the water goes down, cars will be able to see the docks on land.

Mr. Forsdick reported that one of the no wake buoys installed by the Town of Glastonbury is not in the correct GPS position anymore. He requested that someone contact the town and let them know that for the next boating season, in the spring of 2016, it will need to go in the correct location. It may have drifted from its original location. Ms. Bagley will follow up on the correct location for the buoy.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

Tom Mull moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by John Rascius and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen A. Bagley, Director