

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, December 17, 2015

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Michael Bisi, Bill Derech, Tom Ragonese and Dan Silbo. Also present was Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – November 19, 2015.

Mike Bisi moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan Silbo and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – November 2015.

Board members reviewed the monthly report. Chairperson Ragonese commented on the success of the Holiday on Main event. Weather was good and many people came out and enjoyed the evening. Board members also talked about the Santa's Pancake Breakfast that benefits Wethersfield Special Olympics. 632 people attended the breakfast event and visited with Santa.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Letter from Resident, dated December 9, 2015, Regarding Nature Center Program.

Both Chairperson Ragonese and Ms. Bagley received a letter from Mrs. Dudek explaining her concerns about the Elf on the Shelf Fairy House Workshop held on December 5, 2015. A copy of the letter was distributed to Board members. Dan Silbo was concerned with the materials used for constructing the house. Ms. Bagley explained that the staff was using recycled boxes. Ms. Bagley had spoken with staff about the program and will be sending correspondence back to Mrs. Dudek responding to her concerns and offering her a refund for the program. Chairperson Ragonese will receive a draft copy of the letter and provide input to Ms. Bagley on the response. Board members asked Ms. Bagley to evaluate the program with staff and look to see how staff can address Mrs. Dudek's concerns for this program and future programs.

2. 2016 Winter/Spring Program Brochure.

The program brochure will be delivered to residents through the Rare Reminder newspaper on Thursday, December 24, 2015. Registration will begin on Wednesday, January 6, 2016.

E. Old Business.

1. Update on Deputy Harbor Master Position.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that he was asked by the State to send contact information to them regarding Mr. Anthony Ruggiero. Mr. Ragonese contacted Ms. Bagley and she sent Mr. Ruggiero's contact information to the state. Chairperson Ragonese commented that the state is apparently reviewing the Harbor Management Commission's recommendation for Deputy Harbor Master and is looking for additional information from Mr. Ruggiero.

F. New Business.

1. Lacrosse Program.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to provide information on this agenda item. She explained that staff had been working with adult volunteers to conduct a Lacrosse Clinic for children. It was very popular and requests were made to have a spring program. Registration was held and enough children registered to set up teams for the spring. These teams can travel to other towns and play their teams. Wethersfield would have girls and boys teams. Since this program is being looked at as a league, she is bringing it to the Board's attention for their review. Chairperson Ragonese asked what fields would be used for this new league and who is running the program. Ms. Bagley responded that the soccer field at Cove Park will be converted to a Lacrosse field. A member of her staff has confirmed with the soccer

club that they do not need the field. Dan O'Connor is one of the individuals organizing this program. Chairperson Ragonese commented that this program is good for the town and has been popular in other towns for many years. Some of the other towns include Newington, Glastonbury, West Hartford and Rocky Hill. A question was asked if Wethersfield children are currently playing for teams in other towns will they be grandfathered in and allowed to play for their current teams. Ms. Bagley did not know but would look into this issue. A motion was made by Bill Derech and seconded by Mike Bisi to support the establishment of a Lacrosse league in Wethersfield. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) FY 2016-17.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the Capital Improvement Program requests for fiscal year 2016-2017. He discussed the projects with board members and solicited their input on the projects and their priority for next year's budget. Board members felt that Willard Pool wall panels should be paired with the pool roof. That change was made to the priority list submitted to them by the Parks and Recreation Department. Board members also suggested discussing the bleacher replacement at Mill Woods softball field #1 with men's softball. This organization might have some funds to help with replacing these bleachers.

Priorities for the CIP requests for FY2016-17 are:

- a. Willard Pool – replace roof - \$72,000
- b. Willard Pool – replace exterior wall panels - \$25,000
- c. Mill Woods Park – replace docks at pool
- d. Mill Woods Park – replace bleachers at softball field #1
- e. Community Center – continue abatement work in building - \$55,000
- f. Community Center – renovate main exterior entrance - \$30,000
- g. Solomon Welles House – paint house, repair clapboards, doors, windows - \$91,500
- h. Community Center – engineer for rooftop air conditioning unit - \$25,000
- i. Basketball Court – reconstruct court at Charles Wright school - \$70,000
- j. Playground – replace playground equipment at Greenfield park - \$25,000
- k. Mill Woods Park – replace last section of pool fence - \$25,000
- l. Solomon Welles House – construct paved parking lot with drainage - \$270,000
- m. Cove Park - boat launch ramp construction - \$600,000
- n. Mill Woods Park – new soccer field - \$625,000

Ms. Bagley reported that she identified the Mill Woods footbridge project in conjunction with the Grant's Way Foundation in the CIP plan for FY2017-18. She placed it in the plan to help partner with the foundation as they move forward with their fundraising to build this footbridge.

G. Board Member Comments.

1. New Programs.

- a. Dan Silbo discussed looking into programs for children with autism. Currently the town does not have any programs specifically for children with autism. He reported that parents take their children to other towns (West Hartford, Cromwell) for programs. Ms. Bagley will have staff look into the programs in other towns and determine what can be offered in Wethersfield.
- b. A discussion was held on space available in town to construct an area for street hockey in town. Rocky Hill has a facility in Maxwell Park and requests have been made to have a similar facility in Wethersfield. At the present time, staff cannot identify a good area for this activity. Ms. Bagley continues to explore current town land, but nothing seems to be available right now. The facility would need to include areas for parking too.
- c. Members discussed the possibility of a program for music lessons. Ms. Bagley will bring this suggestion to staff as they develop new programs.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Boat for Harbor Master.

Chairperson Ragonese asked the status of the report on how the boat is utilized by the Harbor Master and Deputy Harbor Master. Ms. Bagley has received information from the Harbor Master and will get the report to members at the next meeting.

2. Yacht Club.

a. Yacht Club Application to Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Wethersfield Yacht Club submitted their application for changes to their dock to DEEP and no changes were made from the proposal submitted to the Harbor Management Commission.

b. Ms. Bagley reported that she had a meeting with two Yacht Club members and the Town Manager, Jeff Bridges to discuss the upcoming boating season as it pertained to their members. Ms. Bagley told the Yacht Club members that the commission has made no changes to their previous agreements with the Yacht Club. She suggested they attend a Harbor Management Commission meeting to discuss any issues. She explained they will need to pay for any moorings they have in the Cove. Yacht club members will consider attending the January 2016 meeting.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

Dan Silbo moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Mike Bisi and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director

Parks and Recreation Department