

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, May 26, 2016

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 were Mike Hurley, Town Council Liaison, Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster, Tony Ruggiero, Deputy Harbormaster, and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – April 28, 2016.

Mike Bisi moved to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan Silbo and approved unanimously. Bill Derech mentioned that the Goodwin Park golf fees charged to Wethersfield residents was the correct fee.

C. Monthly Report – April 2016.

Board members reviewed the monthly report. They discussed the change in responsibility for the maintenance of the summer pools. Previously the Parks and Recreation staff handled the pool maintenance. Starting this summer, the Physical Services Division will be responsible for pool maintenance. This change has been recommended by the Parks and Recreation staff.

A board member asked about the staffing hours for the Cove Park Boat Launch ramp. Ms. Bagley explained that they are open all weekend from 8:00 a.m. till dusk, but weekdays the hours vary.

Chairperson Ragonese asked about the results of the children's Fishing Derby. Ms. Bagley reported that 50 fish were caught by the children. The most fish caught since the Fishing Derby was held. This event was very successful and had volunteers from UNICO and the Wethersfield Game Club.

Ms. Bagley told Board members about the new historical markers installed this week around town. They identify the town's Heritage Trail and each sign tells a story about that location's history. The signs are very informative and attractive.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Memorial Day Parade – May 28 at 9:00 a.m.

Chairperson Ragonese reminded members that the parade will kick off this Saturday at the Motor Vehicle Department at 9:00 a.m. and will end in the cemetery with a ceremony honoring veterans.

2. Channel 3 TV station was in town, recognizing the Keane Foundation as part of their 20 towns in 20 days campaign. They donated \$1,000 to the Keane Foundation and also gave them a gift certificate of \$500 from the P. C. Richards store.

3. Memorial Weekend in Old Wethersfield – enactors from the Revolutionary War will be in town this weekend to demonstrate camping in tents, military uniforms and equipment. This event is sponsored by the Historical Society and the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum.

E. Old Business.

1. Parks and Recreation Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to provide information on the status of the budget process. She reported that the Town Council has approved the budget for the Town and there are no cuts to the Parks and Recreation budget. She will be raising some program fees to generate an additional \$25,000 in revenue for the town.

F. New Business.

1. Report on Solomon Welles House Foundation Work.

Ms. Bagley gave board members an update on this construction project. The new foundation on the north side of the house is complete and the contractor, General Builders, is now working on the installation of the exterior kitchen stairs. The contractor has also patched the cracks in the kitchen wall that were a result of the foundation sinking and will be painting the kitchen shortly. Project took longer than anticipated due to the rain in April.

2. Willard Pool and Mill Woods Pond.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley about the status of the pools. She reported that Willard Pool and Mill Woods Pond are set to open on June 17th. Willard Pool will close first this season on August 12th and Mill Woods Pond will close on August 19th.

3. Youth Development Manager Position.

Ms. Bagley reported that the town is close to filling this position. The position oversees the operation of the Nature Center and provides youth programming through the Social and Youth Services Department.

G. Board Member Comments.

1. Little League.

Dan Silbo noted that Little League is scheduling one game on the lighted field each evening instead of the two games per night done in previous years. They may not have as many teams as in the past.

2. Mill Woods Park Mosquitoes.

A board member asked if the park gets sprayed for mosquitoes. Ms. Bagley responded that the park does not get sprayed to control mosquitoes. The town will spray usually in old Wethersfield around the Cove area if needed and for special events, like the fireworks or high school graduation. To date, she has not had any calls reporting a problem of mosquitoes in Mill Woods Park.

3. Hartford Belle Boat Using New Town Docks.

A question came up about the Hartford Belle using the town docks for charters out of the Cove. Ms. Bagley reported that she is working with the Planning Department and the owner of the boat to discuss possible charters out of the Cove. One of the concerns is that there is no lighting in the Cove and it would be difficult for evening cruises. However, they are working on daytime charters as it fits in the boat's schedule.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the report with commission members and Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick and Deputy Harbormaster Tony Ruggiero. Sixteen applications have been received for moorings and 10 for tender cleats. Also, the town has been power washing the docks to get them ready for the season.

2. Status of Boat.

Chairperson Ragonese asked for an update on the donation of the boat from the MDC. Charlie Forsdick reported that the boat has not been received by the Town at this time. Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Manager is handling this issue and is working on it. Council Liaison, Mike Hurley will contact the Town Manager to determine when the town will get the boat. Charlie Forsdick requested that someone from the Town inspect the boat to determine its condition. Mike Hurley will bring this request to the attention of the Town Manager.

3. Dock Procedures for High Water.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that all members had received the draft copy of the dock procedures for high water developed by Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick. Charlie Forsdick explained that this was a first draft of the procedures when the water is high and how to have maintenance work with the docks. Ms. Bagley explained that she has reviewed it with staff and notices that there are policies identified and procedures explained. She will work with Charlie to develop a set of dock procedures for high water. These procedures will include how best to stop traffic in front of the warehouse when the dock is positioned for high water.

4. Pump Out Station.

Board members discussed the pump out station located at the Cove. It is located in a storage shed next to the Cove boat launch shed and it is brought down to the dock at the request of a boater. It was suggested to put a sign on the shed to notify boaters of this service. Ms. Bagley reported that a sign is there now, but the state is developing new signage that will be more noticeable to boaters. Once the signs are available, they will replace the existing sign on the shed.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks and Recreation Department