

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, June 23, 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 Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster, Tony Ruggiero, Deputy Harbormaster, and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – May 26, 2016.

Mike Bisi moved to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan Silbo and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – May 2016.

Board members reviewed the monthly report. Members commented on the Fireworks show held in town on June 4. Everyone thought it was a great show. Crowd size was estimated to be around 8,500. Chairperson Ragonese asked about the High School Safe Graduation Party. Ms. Bagley reported that she talked to parents the morning after the party and was told that the students had a great time.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Chairperson Ragonese noted that the pool had opened for the summer. Ms. Bagley reported that the pools had excellent attendance due to the hot weather. The summer programs began June 20th and all programs are now underway. Registration has been good for all the camps and sports programs.
2. Chairperson Ragonese noted that Recreation Supervisor Marty Sitler is retiring from the town after 28 years of full time service. His retirement party is June 28 at the Community Center from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. Rachael Sunny is replacing Mr. Sitler. She has worked for the town as the Youth Development Manager.

E. Old Business.

1. Cove Boat Launch Aarea – Staff Schedule.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to provide information on the schedule. She reported that Friday, Saturday and Sunday are staffed all day into the evening and staff are scheduled during the week usually in the afternoon and evening. She said that the kayakers are very happy with the fee not being charged for their use of the Cove Boat Launch area.

2. Youth Development Manager Position.

Chairperson Ragonese had Ms. Bagley give an update on this vacancy being filled. She explained that Patrick Telman has taken the position. He has a great deal of experience in running summer camps and adventure programs. He has worked the last 13 years as a Recreation Supervisor for the Town of South Windsor.

F. New Business.

1. Update on Summer Programs – see above under Letters and Announcements.

2. Field Status Update.

Chairperson Ragonese requested information from Ms. Bagley about field conditions and their use by residents. She reported that the fields have been in great shape and she has even received compliments about them. All fields are being used with the exception of the High School. The campus is under renovation for the summer.

3. Question on Caregivers for Family Pool Pass.

Ms. Bagley discussed with Board members questions she has received regarding a second caregiver being allowed on a family pass. The current policy allows a family to put a caregiver on their pass. Requests have been made to allow two caregivers on a pass because they may swap days with each other.

Discussion ensued on this topic and a resident attending the meeting suggested charging an additional fee for a second caregiver. Board members thought this was a good idea and asked Ms. Bagley to try it on a trial basis. The fee would be \$10 and allow a family to have an additional caregiver on their family pass.

Ms. Bagley will implement the change this summer.

G. Board Member Comments.

None.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the report with commission members and Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick and Deputy Harbormaster Tony Ruggiero. Mr. Forsdick noted that the boaters like the new moorings. Board members discussed the location of the fishing dock. Ms. Bagley explained that per the plan submitted to the state, the location is in the vicinity of the prior dock located next to existing boat ramp. Mr. Ruggiero reported that he helped some boaters that had mechanical problems on the water. Mr. Forsdick asked that Cove boat launch staff check to make sure the boats are registered by the state as they enter the boat launch area. Ms. Bagley inform the staff. Mr. Forsdick reported that the cruise boat, Hartford Belle, docked on the new docks to pick up a charter in Wethersfield. Everything went well and other charters may be scheduled for the future.

2. Status of Boat.

Chairperson Ragonese asked for an update on the boat status. Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Manager is working with the Physical Services Department. They are taking the motor from the boat donated by MDC and putting it on the harbormaster boat. Staff is also fixing the harbormaster boat so that it is structurally sound and water tight. The Town Manager is overseeing the project. They expect the boat to be ready next week. The donated boat will be sent out for repairs in the future.

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