

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, August 25, 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, Richard Lepore, Stathis Manousos, Tom Mull, Tom Ragonese and Dan Silbo. Also present were Mike Hurley, Council Liaison, Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster, Tony Ruggiero, Deputy Harbormaster, and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Chairperson Ragonese welcomed Stathis Manousos to the Board.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – July 28, 2016.

Mike Bisi moved to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Mull and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – July 2016.

Board members reviewed the monthly report. Chairperson Ragonese noted that the department has been planning for the fall season. Mike Hurley reported that the Police Night Out event was successful with a good number of people in attendance. Stathis Manousos reported that the Soccer Palooza tournament was held in Mill Wood Park on August 20 & 21 with a free community concert on Saturday night.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Ms. Bagley announced that the fall 2016 Parks and Recreation program brochure was delivered to Wethersfield homes today. Registration for fall programs begins on August 31 for residents and September 1 for non-residents. Chairperson Ragonese commented that the brochure had a lot of activities in it and looked good. He noted that the brochure comes out three times per year: the fall season, winter/spring and then the summer season. Tom Mull commented that he likes getting the brochure as a paper copy. Ms. Bagley explained that the fall brochure now includes the Keane After School programs. The Keane Foundation has entered into a partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department and the School District to offer after school programs to students in each of the five elementary schools. The Keane Foundation is working the Parks and Recreation Department for the registration process and the payment of staff for the programs. The Keane Foundation is paying for the program coordinator and the site coordinators at each school. The instructors for the programs are being paid by the program fees. Ms. Bagley commented that this is a great partnership because more programs are available to children after school and no transportation is involved.

E. Old Business.

1. Fall Field Status.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to report on the availability of fields for the fall sports. She explained that all fields are ready for the high school use. A new field is now needed for a youth field hockey program. They have been assigned to the field at Cove Park that was previously a soccer field. Chairperson Ragonese asked about the ages for the field hockey program. Ms. Bagley responded that there is a younger division and an older division, but did not know the ages. She will get that information for the next meeting.

Montanaro field will be off line this season. An irrigation system will be installed with funds remaining from a state grant. Originally funds were used to provide drainage on the field from the grant and the remainder of grant funds will now be used to install an irrigation system. Work will be done in the fall.

F. New Business.

1. High School Pool Report.

Chairperson Ragonese notified members that the high school pool will not be available in the fall due to abatement work. Asbestos was found in the ceiling of the high school pool when painting was being done this summer. At this time, the asbestos has been removed and now new ductwork and lights need to be ordered and installed. Target date for the pool coming back on line is October 28 for the last home meet of the season for the girls swimming team. This work will impact the Parks and Recreation activities in the pool. Swim lessons will not be offered in the fall, but will be held in the winter and spring sessions. Recreational swim will not be available until the pool comes back on line. The Barracuda Swim Team practices and the Stroke Clinic will be held at an alternate site in coordination with the practices of the girls swim team. The site being considered is Hartford Public High School's pool. If a resident purchases a town pool pass, they will be able to use it at Rocky Hill or Newington's pool during their recreational swim times. The pool pass costs have been reduced due to this situation. Family pool pass will be reduced from \$55 to \$45 dollars and the individual pool pass will be reduced from \$35 to \$30. Staff will be monitoring the situation. Once the pool becomes available it will open for recreational swim and the Barracudas Swim Team will move back to Wethersfield High School.

2. Keane Foundation After School Programs.

Discussed under Letters and Announcements.

3. Request for Adult Community Theater Program.

Ms. Bagley reported that she is working with a group of adults interested in having a community theater group in town sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department. She has scheduled an informational meeting on September 12 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center for anyone interested in having this program in town. She will keep the board updated on the status of this proposed program.

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. Charlie Forsdick reported that we have more mooring applications than in the past ten years. Chairperson Ragonese asked if he knew why there were more moorings sold. Charlie Forsdick felt it was due to the new docks and mooring tackle in the Cove. There has been some increase in the boating activity. He is working with the Tourism Commission to get more publicity for the Cove boating facility. Mr. Forsdick asked Ms. Bagley about her review of the draft procedures for high water access with the docks. Ms. Bagley explained that she and her staff have not reviewed the draft policy at this time.

Charlie Forsdick discussed the status of the boat with commission members. Ms. Bagley reported that the boat has a hole/crack in the bottom of the hull. The Physical Services staff is letting the boat dry out and will determine if they can fix the hole. They attribute the hole to the use of the boat by the Harbormasters. Both Charlie Forsdick and Tony Ruggiero explained that they did not do anything to the boat that would have caused this damage. They felt that because the hull is so old it might have happened with the stress in the water. Mr. Forsdick is looking for assistance in getting a boat that can be used by the harbormasters. Mike Hurley will look into the situation.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

Michael Bisi moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. Motion was seconded by Tom Mull and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks and Recreation Department