

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, September 22, 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, 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.

A. Public Comments.

Mr. Steve Randall noted that good things were happening this summer. He asked that a sign be placed on the fishing dock so visitors would know that they could fish on the dock. He has submitted work orders on the town website, but not sure who gets these work orders. Councilor Hurley said he would look into it. He sent an email asking that the Park Board be updated on the dock situations at the 1860 Reservoir. Ms. Bagley received that email and had planned to add it to the Board agenda for this evening. She explained that some residents bordering the Reservoir had installed docks in the water. They do not have permission to have the docks and the matter is being reviewed by town staff to determine a course of action.

B. Minutes – August 25, 2016.

Mike Bisi moved to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2016 meeting with the following change: Dan Silbo was not present at the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Mull and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – August 2016.

Board members reviewed the monthly report. Chairperson Ragonese asked for any comments or questions. Councilor Hurley discussed the St. Patrick's Day Parade coming up in the spring. Charlie Forsdick reported that the Source to Sea Cleanup at the Cove was successful. Approximately 35 volunteers assisted with the cleanup. Mike Bisi asked about the Cornfest. Councilor Hurley said that a lot of people were in attendance and both children and adults had a good time. Weather was great and the Chamber of Commerce had a lot of vendors and activities for people to enjoy.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Ms. Bagley reported that the Cornfest was held on September 17, 2016.

E. Old Business.

1. Fall Program Registration.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to provide information on fall registration. She explained that with the new Keane After School programs registrations increased and many programs filled for the fall. To date, 498 students signed up for the After School programs in the five elementary schools. Some classes filled on the first day of registration and staff is looking to provide more programs for the winter and spring sessions. The Keane Foundation is funding the coordinators at each school and the After School program coordinator. Program fees are paying for the instructors and supplies. This After School program has reached many children with great activities.

2. High School Pool Status.

Chairperson Ragonese noted that the pool work is on schedule at this point. Construction is underway for the improvements to the ceiling, lights, ventilation and duct work. He asked Ms. Bagley what arrangements were being made since the pool is unavailable. She explained that the high school girls swim team is using Willard Pool while the weather is still good and then will be traveling to Hartford Public High School for their practices. Parks and Recreation will also use Hartford Public High for their programs until the pool is ready.

3. Community Theater Program.

Ms. Bagley reported that 35 people attended the informational meeting on starting a community theater program. They filled out a survey identifying their interest and will be developing an organizational structure and financial plan. They will come to the board at a future meeting to present their information and discuss sponsorship.

F. New Business.

1. Cottone Plaque.

Stathis Manousos discussed the ceremony unveiling the plaque at Cottone Field that identified all the major donors for the lights and picnic area. He reported on the efforts contributed by everyone to get all the work done and funded at the field. The next step will be to replace the artificial turf at the field in the near future. He explained that the high school is looking to use the small soccer field at the north end of the complex for a softball field. This field is used all the time for soccer and sport practices.

2. Men's Softball.

Tom Mull reported that he is working with the Rocky Hill Men's Softball League and their Parks and Recreation Department to combine their league with the Wethersfield Men's League. Rocky Hill will provide one field for this combined league to use. Two games per night will be played under the lights at Maxwell Park in Rocky Hill. The combined league will start in the spring of 2017.

3. Willard Roof.

Chairperson Ragonese reminded members that the Capital Improvement program funded the roof replacement at Willard pool. This work is scheduled to be done in October. A complete new roof with skylights will be installed.

4. 1860 Reservoir – Private Docks Encroachments.

Discussed under public comments.

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. A discussion was held on the use of the boat. Councilor Hurley reported that he held a meeting with the Town Manager Jeff Bridges, Tom Ragonese, Charlie Forsdick and Kathy Bagley on the use of the boat prior to the Board meeting this evening. It was decided that the Harbormasters could have use of the town boat for the remainder of the season in the Cove only. Originally the Town Manager had directed that the Harbormasters not use the boat for the rest of the season. The Town Manager was concerned because of the damage done to the boat after the town did work on the boat. The Harbormasters reported that they did not damage the boat and did not know how the hull was damaged. For the next month the Harbormasters can use the boat in the Cove. A future discussion will be held for next year's boat operation. Chairperson Ragonese explained that the town owns the boat and carries the insurance for the boat. Chairperson Ragonese noted that the Cove boat launch operation closes the Columbus Day weekend.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks and Recreation Department