

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, March 22, 2012

The meeting was held at Wethersfield Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Chairperson Tom Ragonese, Carmelo Amoddio, Richard Lepore, Tom Mull and Dan Silbo. Also present was Kathleen Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – February 16, 2012.

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes of February 16, 2012. The motion was seconded by Richard Lepore and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – February 2012.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members. Discussion was held regarding the upcoming Fishing Derby on April 14 and Easter Egg Hunt on March 31.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Easter Egg Hunt – March 31 at Cove Park at 2:00 p.m.
2. Fishing Derby – April 14 at Spring Street Pond from 9:00 a.m. to noon
3. Summer Brochure will be delivered as an insert of the Rare Reminder on March 29 with registration on April 3rd for residents and April 10th for non residents.
4. Caretaker Position Open at Solomon Welles House.
Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the press release looking for candidates to fill the position. The current caretaker is leaving after 14 years of service and the Town is accepting applications until April 20th for the position. Caretaker gets a rent free apartment in the house and is responsible for cleaning, setting up and breaking down meetings and being available for meetings Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. The Solomon Welles House committee is conducting the interview process with Ms. Bagley.

E. Old Business.

1. Air Conditioning Unit for Gymnasium Project at 9/11 Memorial Sports Center.
Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for an update on this work. She reported that the Town Council awarded the bid to Crest Mechanical for \$43,500. Target date for completion is June 1.

F. New Business.

1. Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13.
Chairperson Ragonese discussed the Parks and Recreation Budget for 2012-13 with Board Members. They reviewed the budget included in their packet. Ms. Bagley reported that she had requested a \$20,000 increase in the Nature Center budget to help cover expenses. The Town Manager cut this request and is looking for the Nature Center to become self-sustaining. Staff will review Nature Center expenses for next year and look at other ways to earn additional revenue. Other increases included salaries per union contracts, benefits and water. Water costs are going up for next year and the biggest increase is with the outdoor pools. The manager had not made any other cuts to the Parks and Recreation budget at this time.
2. Agenda Packet – Discussion on Emailing Packet to Members.
Ms. Bagley asked Board members to consider receiving their agenda packets for meetings by email. Board members were supportive of this suggestion and will place it as an agenda item for the next meeting.

G. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbor Management Plan Draft #4.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the State sent back additional comments for review. Harbormaster, Charlie Forsdick and staff are making the revisions and will be sending it back to the State as draft #5 next week. Tom Mull noted a typo on page 6 under item F.15. It is missing the word Club after Wethersfield Cove Yacht. Ms. Bagley will make that correction. Mr. Mull also noted that on page 10 item D.2b it identifies 13 moorings set aside in grid B for the Wethersfield Cove Yacht Club, but only nine moorings are designated in Appendix E. Ms. Bagley will review the mooring grid plan with the Harbormaster. Mr. Mull reported to the commission that the Yacht Club has removed their moorings from the Cove and will be reinstalling them in locations designated by the Harbormaster in the spring.

2. Status of Permit Process with State for Cove Docks & Boat Launch Ramp.

Ms. Bagley reported that the consulting firm is working on the final application to submit to the State. The application should be submitted by the end of March.

3. Army Corp of Engineers – Entrance Channel Dredging Project.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers, Kathy Bagley and Michael Turner met with another landowner on the river seeking permission to test their land to see if it is suitable to accept the dredged material. This landowner offered some additional suggestions of land to consider and will be working with the Corp to see if any of their areas is feasible and could be tested.

4. Review Form for Proposed Work in Cove.

Chairperson Ragonese asked if Board members had any suggested revisions to this form. One suggestion was to include a line for the email address of the applicant. Ms. Bagley will make that change and the application form for proposed work in the Cove will be ready for any applicant.

5. Appointment of Deputy Harbormaster.

Chairperson Ragonese announced that the Governor has appointed Charlie Viani as the Deputy Harbormaster.

H. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Richard Lepore and seconded by Dan Silbo to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department