

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, August 23, 2012

The meeting was held at Wethersfield Town Hall and called to order by Acting Chairperson Richard Lepore at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Richard Lepore, Jordan Dikergoros and Jeremy Donnelly. Also present were Mike Hurley, Town Council Liaison, Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation, Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster and Charlie Viani, Deputy Harbormaster.

A. Public Comments – None.

B. Minutes – June 28, 2012.

Jeremy Donnelly moved to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2012 monthly meeting. The motion was seconded by Jordon Dikergoros and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – July 2012.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members. Acting Chairperson Lepore asked about the dog swim held August 18th at Mill Woods Park. Ms. Bagley reported that it was very successful. They had about 100 dogs swimming at the pond.

D. Letters and Announcements – None.

E. Old Business.

1. Air Conditioning Unit for Gymnasium Project at 9/11 Memorial Sports Center.

Ms. Bagley reported that the project was completed in July and came in under budget. The project was funded by the Keane Foundation and the Parks and Recreation Department is very appreciative of this major donation. The staff and campers have been using the air conditioning in the gym and it has kept them cool during the hot summer days.

F. New Business

1. Little League Request to Build Dugouts at Greenfield Softball Field.

Members of Wethersfield Little League met with Ms. Bagley to consider the construction of dugouts for the girl's softball field at Greenfield. They explained their need to have permanent dugouts at the field to provide cover for the ballplayers during the game. Ms. Bagley discussed with them the potential for vandalism of the dugouts at this field. A design was developed to fence in the dugouts and lock them when not in use by the ballplayers, but keep the field open to the public. Little League will fund the construction of the dugouts. Board members reviewed the preliminary design for the dugouts and agreed that the dugouts would be a good addition to the field. They were concerned with vandalism of the dugouts and asked that Little League fund the repair of any vandalism done to the dugouts. Ms. Bagley will work with Little League on this project and let them know of the Board members concerns. Acting Chairperson Lepore asked Ms. Bagley to discuss this project with the Police Chief and find out if he had any concerns with the construction of the dugouts.

2. Wethersfield Cove Boat Launch Fees.

Acting Chairperson Lepore discussed the boat launch fees with the Board Members. They reviewed the attachment that provided information on the fees for the Cove Boat Launch Area and other boat launch areas in the Greater Hartford vicinity. Ms. Bagley explained that she is not looking to raise fees at this time, but a resident had asked the Board to review the fees for canoes and kayaks. The resident felt the fees were high for canoes and kayaks. Acting Chairperson Lepore suggested continuing the discussion of fees at future meetings.

G. Board Member Comments - None

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick distributed his monthly report to the commission. Commission members reviewed his report. Report is attached to minutes. Mr. Forsdick noted that he has been working with Mr. Walter to properly secure his dock sections with appropriate anchors. The Harbor Management Plan is being reviewed by various State Departments and the Army Corp of Engineers. Mr. Forsdick requested a handheld GPS be purchased for the Harbormaster's use. Commission approved this request.

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

Ms. Bagley reported that the State received a letter from a resident with questions about the work proposed for the new docks and boat launch ramp. Ms. Bagley is working with the project engineers to prepare a response to the resident and the State. After this response is submitted, the State will consider all the information and make a determination on issuing the permit for the work.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Jordon Dikergoros and it was seconded by Jeremy Donnelly to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department