

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Harbor Management Commission  
Minutes - Thursday, October 25, 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 Tom Ragonese, Richard Lepore, Peter Mozzicato (left 7:30 p.m.) and John Rascius. Also present were Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation and Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster.

A. Public Comments

Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster, spoke about changes to the Cove Boating and mooring fees. He suggested considering changes when the new docks are installed and we have an updated facility for boat launchings. Chairperson Ragonese noted that the Board will be discussing the fees at their November meeting.

B. Minutes – September 27, 2012.

Peter Mozzicato moved to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2012 monthly meeting. The motion was seconded by John Rascius and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – September 2012.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members. Peter Mozzicato commented on the lights at Cottone Field. He went to a high school field hockey game under the lights; it was fun and the lighting was good. John Rascius attended a boy's high school volleyball game and was impressed with the athleticism of the players.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. October 26<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., October 27<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 8:00 p.m., and October 28<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Nature Center's Science Gone Wild Haunted House – all ages.

Chairman Ragonese reminded board members about this haunted house at the Nature Center which is organized by the Friends of the Nature Center.

2. Children's Halloween Party October 28<sup>th</sup> 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Community Center – Preschool to Grade 4.

Ms. Bagley reported that this event involves costume judging, games and a magician for entertainment.

3. Email from Mr. Randall.

Ms. Bagley distributed an email received from Mr. Steve Randall concerning the boat launching fees and some issues with Mill Woods Park. He provided some information on paddle boaters using the Cove. He is suggesting reducing fees at the boat launch ramp. Chairperson Ragonese discussed Mr. Randall's email with members and they will consider his input when they review the boat launch fees at the November meeting. Chairperson Ragonese requested that Mr. Randall's email be included in the November packet. Mr. Randall had some issues at Mill Woods Park including fencing in the park and the lack of signage for the children's fishing pond. Ms. Bagley will look into these issues.

E. Old Business – None.

F. New Business.

1. Mill Woods Softball Fields #3 & #4 – Began Renovations to Field.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to provide information on the field renovations. She reported that Physical Services staff have stripped and regraded the infields and will be installing turf on each infield. Also they have done some drainage work on field #3 and will be installing drainage on field #4 and around the perimeter of both fields in the spring. This work will make the fields more playable with less maintenance work needed after rainstorms. Mr. Mozzicato told the Board that he noticed AAU teams using field #5 on Saturday mornings. Ms. Bagley was unaware of this use and will look into it for the 2013 summer. All outside groups must be given permission to use a town field and pay a fee for that use. Chairperson Ragonese asked who uses fields #3 & 4. She responded that adult groups and Little League have used these fields.

G. Board Member Comments.

Mr. Mozzicato reported that Little League has partnered with the Town to install a new batting cage at the lighted Little League field. The approximate cost is \$10,000 and Little League is paying this cost. The town is hiring a contractor to install the fencing for this new batting cage.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Permit Process for Cove Docks & Boat Launch Ramp – Received Permit from State.

Ms. Bagley reported that she has the official letter from the State authorizing the improvement to Wethersfield Cove for the new docks and boat launch ramp. Chairperson Ragonese asked about the next steps in the process. The town needs to receive paperwork from the State for the Boating Infrastructure Grant to get authorization to spend the grant money. The State is currently working on this paperwork. The town will then develop a scope of work for the project and ask our consultant to provide a cost to develop the bid specifications and oversee the work. The town's goal to install the new docks is late summer or fall. The town is currently funded through the grant to install the docks, additional moorings, navigational aids and some funds are set aside to help with the channel dredging. The new boat launch ramp is not funded at this time. Ms. Bagley had a preliminary discussion with the consultant about the scope of work. The consultant suggested the town consider including the bid specifications for the new boat launch ramp in the scope of work to have this work ready should funds become available for the construction of the new boat launch ramp. Commission members thought this was a good idea. Ms. Bagley will include it as an option in the scope of work request to the consultant.

2. Harbormaster Report.

Mr. Forsdick reviewed his report with the commission members. He reported that all the moorings have been removed for the season from the Cove and the docks have been removed from the water.

3. Harbor Management Plan – Approved Plan Attached (copies available at meeting).

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to distribute copies of the approved plan from the State. The next step is to go to the Town Council for their acceptance of the plan. Tentative plan is to present it to the Town Council in December.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Richard Lepore and seconded by John Rascius to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department