

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Harbor Management Commission  
Minutes - Thursday, August 25, 2011

The meeting was held at Lucky Lou's Restaurant and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. Chairperson Ragonese noted that the board members held their annual tour of park facilities prior to this meeting. Members present were Chairperson Tom Ragonese, Dan Silbo, Carmelo Amoddio, Richard Lepore and Tom Pentalow. Also present were Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, Kathleen Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation, Marty Sitler, Recreation Supervisor and Charlie Forsdick, Deputy Harbor Master.

A. Public Comments – None.

B. Minutes – June 23, 2011.

Tom Pentalow moved to approve the minutes of June 23, 2011. The motion was seconded by Dan Silbo and approved unanimously. The notes from the July 28, 2011 meeting were reviewed. There was no quorum at the July meeting.

C. Monthly Report – July, 2011.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by board members.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Town Council appointed the Parks and Recreation Board as the Harbor Management Commission at their meeting on August 1, 2011. Chairperson Ragonese noted that there is now an agenda item for Harbor Management Commission business. During this agenda item tonight, board members will discuss their role and responsibility as the Harbor Management Commission.
2. Park Board member list and meeting dates was reviewed by board members.
3. Park Bench Installed at Broad Street Green.

Ms. Bagley reported that this bench was carved from an oak tree that fell on the Broad Street Green during the tornado in June 2009. The bench will need the approval of the Historic District Commission. Board members commented that they had seen the bench and it looked good on the Green.

E. Old Business.

1. Cottone Field Lights Project.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the project is nearing completion. The contractor needs to install the emergency lights, replace the circuit breakers and tests must be completed on the entire system. The goal is to have the lights completed in time for the fall sports season at the high school. Chairperson Ragonese is working with town staff to get this project completed as soon as possible.

F. New Business.

1. Status of Grant Application for Wethersfield Cove Improvements.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for an update on this grant process. Ms. Bagley explained that the town is applying for a grant to fund improvements to Cove Park. These improvements include a new dock system, additional moorings and dredging the entrance channel to the Cove. This grant is very competitive and federally funded. The town hired the consultant firm of Ocean & Coastal to prepare the grant application. This firm has worked with the town on the dock and boat launch ramp design. Board members were pleased with the opportunity to apply for grant funds that would revitalize that area of the park and make it more attractive and functional. Also, this grant has the potential to help the board fund one of their Capital Improvement projects with the inclusion of the new docks for the Cove. A question was raised on the boating fees for the Cove. Daily launch fees are \$10 for residents \$20 for non-residents. A season launch permit is \$100 for residents and \$200 for non-residents.

2. Savage Park.

Town Manager, Jeff Bridges, provided board members with information on the potential sale of Savage Park. Savage Park is located on the Silas Deane Highway between Corpus Christie Church and Rite

Parks and Recreation Board. Chairperson Ragonese asked where the funds would go for the sale of the property. Mr. Bridges explained that the money realized from the sale will go into the town's open space fund. Board members discussed this issue. Richard Lepore moved to recommend to the Town Council that the Advisory Parks and Recreation Board has no problem with selling the property known as Savage Park, as long as the funds are deposited in the Town's Open Space Fund. The motion was seconded by Tom Pentalow and voted unanimously. Mr. Bridges thanked the board for their review of this property and sending their recommendation to the Town Council.

#### G. Board Member Comments.

##### 1. Mill Woods Swim Lessons.

Dan Silbo asked what procedure was followed for moving the fourth session of swim lessons from Mill Woods Park to the high school because of the beach washout in the swim area. He explained that his family, and other families, did not find out about the change in location until they showed up for swim lessons. Ms. Bagley reported that all families were notified by email of the change in the location. Any family without email was contacted by phone. She could only assume that for some reason the system used for emailing families might have had a problem. She will look into it and get back to the board. She apologized for the problem and will evaluate the notification process.

##### 2. Grass at Highcrest Field.

Carmelo Amoddio noted that the grass is growing at Highcrest field. Ms. Bagley reported that the maintenance staff had aerated, fertilized and seeded the field.

#### H. Harbor Management Commission.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Deputy Harbor Master, Charlie Forsdick, to explain the responsibilities of the Park Board as it relates to the Harbor Management Commission. Mr. Forsdick reviewed with the board members the new ordinance voted by the Town Council which listed the responsibilities of the commission. This ordinance was included in the Park Board packet for this meeting. He discussed one of the main responsibilities is to develop a Harbor Management Plan for Wethersfield Cove. This plan will be developed over the next several months. A draft is being developed by staff and will be presented to the board for their review. Chairperson Ragonese discussed a time table with board members for this project. They are looking at completing this plan by the end of November. Mr. Forsdick explained that some of the components of the plan will include the activity on the water, in the channel and on the riverbank. It will provide information on moorings, docks and facilities in the Cove. Rules for watercraft will be specified. This plan will need public comment and probably several revisions. He has been in contact with the Wethersfield Cove Yacht Club and they have been very cooperative in working with him on this plan. It will be important to get as much public input as possible on the plan.

Chairperson Ragonese summarized these new responsibilities by saying that the Harbor Management Commission will manage what goes on in the water and shore facilities. Mr. Forsdick will communicate with board members by email as he needs to keep them informed on matters in Wethersfield Cove. With Hurricane Irene approaching, Mr. Forsdick will let board members know of any issues by email. He will work with town staff to prepare the Cove for the impending weather. Chairperson Ragonese thanked Mr. Forsdick for providing them with the information on the Harbor Management Commission.

#### I. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Carmelo Amoddio and seconded by Tom Pentalow to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department