

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, September 22, 2011

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

A. Public Comments – None.

B. Minutes – August 25, 2011.

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes of August 25, 2011. The motion was seconded by Richard Lepore and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – July, 2011.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Coveside Carnival sponsored by the Keane Foundation will take place on October 14, 15 & 16 at Cove Park.
2. Mikey's Road Race will be held on October 16. This road race helps to provide funds for Mikey's Place playground in Standish Park.

E. Old Business.

1. Cottone Field Lights Project.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the light project for Cottone field was completed on September 13. The dedication ceremony will be held at the first home football game on September 23, prior to the start of the 7:00 p.m. game. Speakers at the dedication ceremony will be Senator John Fonfara, Mayor Donna Hemmann and Dan O'Connor representing all the volunteers who made the project possible. All Board members are invited to attend this first home football game under the lights.

2. Mill Woods Swim Lesson Notification.

Ms. Bagley provided some information on how families were notified about the location change from Mill Woods Pond to the high school pool for swim lessons in the summer. She explained that the department's registration software sent families email about the location change. If the email did not go through to the intended recipient, then her office would receive a report identifying any of these problems. At the time no problems showed up. Since receiving information that families did not receive the email, staff checked with the software company and technology staff with the Town. They suggested the problem could have been the email getting filtered out, but at other times it could go through. Staff are running tests on the email system and will work to improve the notification system for the future.

F. New Business.

1. Status of Grant Application for Wethersfield Cove Improvements.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for an update on the grants for Cove Park. She reported that the grant for the new docks, moorings and channel dredging has been submitted to the Federal Government by the State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The Federal Government will make a decision in 2012. Also, the Town has received a grant to purchase a pump out cart for marine sewage from boats for \$9,450. This grant will provide funds to purchase a pump out cart, pay personnel costs and hire a contractor to empty the cart. The funds for this project will be available for the 2012 boating season.

G. Board Member Comments.

1. Soccer Field at Highcrest School.

Dan Silbo discussed the lining of the soccer fields at Highcrest School. He reported that the fields needed some additional lines, particularly the center circle. Ms. Bagley explained that this request had just come into her office and the maintenance staff was contacted to add these lines to the fields at Highcrest.

2. Minutes and Agenda for Commission.

Chairperson Ragonese noted that since the Park Board is now the Harbor Management Commission, the minutes and agenda should have this designation on them. Ms. Bagley will make the necessary corrections to the August minutes and note the change for future meeting agenda and minutes.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Review Process for Harbor Management Plan.

Chairperson Ragonese explained to Board members that one of their responsibilities as the Harbor Management Commission is to develop a Harbor Management Plan. The Deputy Harbor Master and Parks and Recreation staff have created a draft plan that was included in their packet for this meeting. This draft plan was copied from the State of Connecticut's model Municipal Harbor Management Plan, but was made specific for Wethersfield's Harbor. Chairperson Ragonese commented on the plan. He noted that it was well done, easy to read and straight forward in its information. Other Board members echoed his comments. They discussed the next step in this process which is soliciting public input. The Board decided to use their next meeting on October 27, 2011 for a presentation on the plan and public input. They asked Ms. Bagley to notify the public about this plan and the meeting. Chairperson Ragonese suggested holding the meeting at the Community Center and Board members concurred. At the next meeting a brief presentation will be held on the plan and members of the public will have the opportunity to comment on it and ask any questions. After this meeting, Board members will evaluate the input, revise the plan and determine if more public input is needed.

2. Tree in Channel.

Chairperson Ragonese had spoken with Deputy Harbor Master Charlie Forsdick who told him about a tree that fell in the channel. The tree is blocking some of the channel, but boats can still get by it. However, the tree needs to be removed as soon as possible. Ms. Bagley explained that she had spoken with the maintenance staff at the beginning of the week and they told her they would remove it as soon as possible. She thought they might have already removed it, but would check with them tomorrow. If it was not removed she would remind maintenance that it is a high priority and work with them to get the tree removed. Chairperson Ragonese reported that Mr. Forsdick had discussed the tree removal with members of the Volunteer Fire Department and they offered to assist in clearing the tree if the maintenance staff could not get it done quickly. Ms. Bagley will follow up on this issue tomorrow.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Dan Silbo and seconded by Richard Lepore to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department