

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, April 25, 2013

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Jordan Dikegoros, Jeremy Donnelly, Richard Lepore, John Rascius and Tom Mull. Also present was Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – March 28, 2013.

Richard Lepore moved to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2013 monthly meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeremy Donnelly and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – March 2013.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Memorial Day Parade – May 25 at 9:00 a.m.

Chairperson Ragonese discussed the parade with members.

E. Old Business.

1. Mill Woods Beach Drainage Project.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for an update on this project. The contractor started on April 22 and is excavating and removing the clay from the beach. He has started to install the concrete curb and the drainage lines. Contractor is making good progress and the weather has been cooperative. When this work is completed, it will stop the beach from washing out into the swim area. Scheduled completion date is June 14. Board members asked if the park roads and parking lots are going to be fixed. Funds are available to finish the parking lot by the lighted softball field and fix the roads. Temporary repairs will be done and once construction is finished in the park, the roads will be fixed.

2. Willard Pool Project – Replace Chlorine Delivery System.

Ms. Bagley reported that the equipment for the new chlorine delivery system has been ordered by the contractor and work is scheduled for May. The Town received a good bid for this project. It was budgeted at \$46,400 and the low bid was \$28,500.

3. Greenfield Playground – Neighbor's Concerns.

Chairperson Ragonese noted that the neighborhood meeting with the Police Department is scheduled for April 30 at 7:00 p.m. at the Police Department community room. He summarized the Board members concerns as expressed to them by the neighbors:

a. The outside group using the park presents a level of intimidation towards the residents.

b. Neighbors are not using the park.

c. Perception from neighbors that local police haven't properly responded to their repeated requests.

Board members concurred with the above concerns. If any Board members are available, they are welcome to attend the meeting. Ms. Bagley will send the Police Chief a copy of the Board minutes from their March 28, 2013 meeting and will include the concerns identified above.

F. New Business.

1. Nature Center Director Position.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to explain the changes to the Nature Center Director position as part of the budget process. The Nature Center Director position has been removed from the Nature Center budget and moved into the operating budget for the Parks and Recreation Department. This position will now be shared with the Social and Youth Services Department and has been changed to the Youth Development Manager. This position will spend 50% of their time working as the person

overseeing the operation of the Nature Center and 50% of their time overseeing youth development programs within the Social and Youth Services Department. A part time position of 19.5 hours/week has been added to the Nature Center budget and additional part time hours have been added to the current staff. This change has been proposed by the Town Manager and is being reviewed by the Town Council during their budget deliberations. The current Nature Center Director, Christopher Shepard, was going to be placed in this position. He notified Ms. Bagley that he had been accepted into the State's accelerated teaching certification program and would be resigning from his job. The Town Manager has begun a recruitment process for this position. Mr. Shepard has done a tremendous job as the Nature Center Director and will be missed. One of his career goals was to teach science and he is moving forward to accomplish this goal. We wish him all the best in this endeavor. He will make an excellent teacher. Plans are being developed to cover this position with staff from the Nature Center and the Parks and Recreation Department during the recruitment process.

G. Board Member Comments.

Chairperson Ragonese asked if there were any Board Member comments. Mr. Mull reported that there had been conflicts with other groups using the Men's Softball fields. He noted that he had gone to the Men's Softball fields where Little League groups and outside groups were using their fields. He wanted to make sure that these groups were told not to use the men's fields. Ms. Bagley knew about the conflicts and told the Board that one of her staff members, Marty Sitler, was working on that issue today at work and had notified the groups to make sure they were using the fields assigned to them. She told Mr. Mull to continue to ask the groups on their field to leave and let the Park Ranger in Mill Woods Park know about the problem. She would also let the park ranger know about the issue.

Mr. Mull was concerned with the mooring fees for the Cove as they pertained to the Yacht Club. He wanted information regarding who sets the fees and who is responsible for collecting them. He also wanted more information on why the Yacht Club would be charged for the moorings this year. Ms. Bagley explained that the mooring fees apply to all moored boats in the Cove and are required by the Army Corps of Engineers because the Cove is a federal waterway. All the boating fees are proposed by the Park Board with a recommendation for approval to the Town Council. The Harbormaster is responsible for the moorings. Chairperson Ragonese suggested that we have further discussion on this item at the May meeting when the Harbormaster will be present for the discussion. Board members concurred with this suggestion.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the Harbormaster report emailed to the Commission by Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick. The report noted that the Cove channel dredging project may happen in the fall of 2013.

2. Boating Infrastructure Grant.

Ms. Bagley reported that she has spoken with people at the State and they are working on the contract. Chairperson Ragonese asked her to keep talking with the State to get the contract documents by the end of April. She will contact the State officials and continue to request the necessary paperwork go get this project started.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Tom Mull and seconded by Richard Lepore to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department