

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Harbor Management Commission  
Minutes - Thursday, May 23, 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, Richard Lepore, John Rascius and Tom Mull. Also present were Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster, Charlie Viani, Deputy Harbormaster and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

Chairperson Ragonese welcomed Mr. Steve Randall to the meeting. Mr. Randall noted that the moorings must be white "balls" per state and federal regulations. Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick thought that some of the moorings were grandfathered in per the regulations but he would check the regulations with the state.

B. Minutes – April 25, 2013.

Tom Mull moved to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2013 monthly meeting. The motion was seconded by Richard Lepore and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – April 2013.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members. Chairperson Ragonese asked about the status of the installation of the Willard Pool controllers. Ms. Bagley reported that the installation will be completed by the end of next week. He also asked about the field conditions for the lighted Little League. Ms. Bagley told the Board that she had a meeting with the Little League field coordinator and other town staff and the town manager to discuss the implementation of Dr. Dest's recommendations to aerate the field. Maintenance staff did some aeration in the spring and will have a second deeper aeration done in the fall. Chairperson Ragonese noted that the Cove Boating operation will open for the Memorial Day weekend, weather permitting.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Memorial Day Parade – May 25 at 9:00 a.m. Rain plans are in place and the high school will be used for the ceremony if needed.
2. Pools open June 23 & summer programs begin June 26

E. Old Business.

1. Mill Woods Beach Drainage Project.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for an update on this project. The contractor has finished most of their work. A punch list is being developed and will be sent to the contractor shortly. Contractor did a great job and finished one week early. Two change orders were done for this project. A concrete ADA walk was installed to provide handicapped access to the beach and an additional 67 feet of curb and under drainage was installed at the south end of the beach. The beach is draining well with the rain and the new beach sand looks and feels great.

2. Greenfield Playground – Neighbor's Concerns.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the Public Safety subcommittee of the Town Council met with the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Police Chief, Police Lieutenant and Parks and Recreation Director to discuss the neighbors concerns. Different ideas were discussed to help remedy the situation. To date, the police have implemented some changes. The Police Chief has directed special attention of the patrol cars to Greenfield Playground. Also, signs have been installed prohibiting parking in the access road to authorized vehicles only. The Town will apply to the State Traffic Commission to post a speed limit on Greenfield St. and a camera has been installed at the playground area. Other future suggestions include a park ranger and an ordinance to set speed limits on Town streets. Board members want to follow the progress of this issue and make sure that neighbors feel safe using the park. They want to get feedback from the neighbors if these changes are improving the neighbors' use of the park. Ms. Bagley reported that the town manager's office will be setting up a meeting with the neighbors to get this feedback.

F. New Business.

1. Loretta's Dream – Picnic pavilion in Mill Woods Park

Ms. Bagley informed the board members that the fundraising committee for this project has raised the necessary funds to purchase the picnic pavilion. The pavilion has been ordered and will be installed over the summer.

G. Board Member Comments.

Chairperson Ragonese asked if there were any Board Member comments. Mr. Mull reported that the Yacht Club wanted to clarify the purchase of a season launch pass for use by members having a mooring or dock slip in the Cove. Mr. Bagley explained that the Harbor Management Commission voted to allow the Yacht Club to purchase a season pass to be used by Yacht Club members having a mooring or dock slip at the Yacht Club. This purchase is allowed because the Yacht Club allows the harbormaster to utilize their dock facilities especially during high water for the town boat. Mr. Forsdick, harbormaster noted that this was a good arrangement and looked forward to continued cooperation with the Yacht Club. Mr. Forsdick stated that he and Ms. Bagley had a meeting with Mr. Leonard, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Yacht Club to go over the Cove moorings. The Yacht club will be able to have 9 moorings if they need them and will pay the resident rate for the moorings. The Army Corp of Engineers requires all individuals to pay the same fee for their moorings in Federal waterways. The Army Corp does not allow private moorings in the Federal waterway but the Yacht club is assigned specific moorings from the Harbor Management Plan as long as there is not a demand for all the moorings. If that were to happen, then the Yacht club would get the same consideration as any member of the public. However, with the amount of moorings approved for the Cove, Mr. Forsdick did not see the demand for moorings exceeding the current mooring allocations.

Chairperson Ragonese asked members when they would like to do the summer tour of facilities. Members concurred that the best month would be July. They decided to do a boat tour of the Cove and CT. River. Further plans will be discussed at the June meeting.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the Harbormaster report emailed to the Commission by Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick. Mr. Forsdick reported that channel clearing is underway.

2. Boating Infrastructure Grant.

Ms. Bagley reported that she is in contact with staff from the state and they are working on the contract. Commission members suggested contacting the Town Manager to see if he can move this process so that the docks can be installed this season. Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to have the Town Manager get involved in getting the contract from the state.

3. Mr. Walter Mooring in Cove

Chairperson Ragonese asked for an update on the status of Mr. Walter's mooring. Mr. Forsdick reported that he met with Mr. Walter and the plan is to have Mr. Walter keep a 24' section of dock and his pontoon boat on the mooring. Chairperson Ragonese asked if Mr. Walter was in agreement with this plan. Mr. Forsdick explained that Mr. Walter concurred with the plan. Mr. Forsdick recommended this plan to the Harbor Management Commission. Commission members had no problem with this recommendation.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Richard Lepore and seconded by Tom Mull to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department