

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, June 27, 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, Carmelo Amoddio, Jordan Dikegoros, Jeremy Donnelly, Richard Lepore, Peter Mozzicato and Tom Mull. Also present were Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – April 25, 2013.

Richard Lepore moved to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2013 monthly meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Mull and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – May 2013.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members. Ms. Bagley reported that summer programs are busy and they are selling a lot of pool passes.

D. Letters and Announcements.

None.

E. Old Business.

1. Mill Woods Beach Drainage Project.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for a status report. The contractor has finished their work except for some punch list items. Drainage is working great. With all the heavy rain recently, there were some minor washouts. These washouts would not have closed the pool and the contractor made some changes to the swale and it eliminated the washouts in that area. Families are having fun with the new beach sand and there are many sand castles being built at the beach. Project has been successful in eliminating the beach sand washouts into the pool.

2. Greenfield Playground – Neighbor's Concerns.

Ms. Bagley reported that the town manager's office has contacted a neighborhood representative to have a follow up meeting and the neighbor has not gotten back to them. The activity seems to have quieted down in this park. Police have been spending a lot of time at Greenfield.

3. Willard Pool Chemical Controllers.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for an update on this project. The work is complete at the pool and staff have received the necessary training to operate the chemical controllers. They are working fine and it will take some time to get accustomed to the new system. Internet access has been provided for the new controllers and staff are able to check the chemical composition of the pool water over the internet.

F. New Business.

1. Catfish Fishing Tournament – August 3 & 4 with CT Outfitters.

Ms. Bagley reported that staff are working with a business in town, CT Outfitters, to hold a Catfish Fishing Tournament out of the Cove boat launch area on August 3 & 4 from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. CT Outfitters will provide prizes for the tournament and people can fish in the Connecticut River. The heaviest, live fish will win the tournament. CT outfitters will have a small canopy at the Cove to weigh in the fish. Board members suggested notifying the neighbors about the event and checking if lights will be needed at the Cove for any of the boaters. Ms. Bagley will look into these suggestions.

2. Youth Development Manager Position.

The hiring process is underway for the Youth Development Manager. This position will spend 50% of their time overseeing the Nature Center operation and 50% of their time with youth programs under Social and Youth Services.

3. Loretta's Dream – Picnic Pavilion in Mill Woods Park.

Ms. Bagley informed the board members that the foundation work has started and the footings have been poured for the pavilion. The concrete will cure and we are awaiting delivery of the pavilion. Volunteers will be installing the pavilion. Chairperson Ragonese commented that this project is a great volunteer project that will benefit Mill Woods Park.

G. Board Member Comments.

1. Carmelo Amoddio discussed the high school renovation as it will affect the availability of gym space during the indoor season. He asked Ms. Bagley to check with the school district on how gym space will be allocated to the high school sports and youth sport programs. Also, he asked her to check if all the gyms could be available and not have stationary equipment placed in the gyms by the teachers during the indoor season. He explained that it would be helpful if these teaching stations could be set up at another time so the gyms would be available to the public. Ms. Bagley will bring these issues up with the Athletic Director and talk with him about gym availability.
2. Field Conditions for the Lighted Little League Field.
Mr. Mozzicato reported that this field was well maintained for the All Star Games for Little League. He noted that the maintenance crew did a good job having the field ready for these games.
3. Board Members agreed to hold their regularly scheduled meeting on July 25 and consider scheduling their annual park tour for late summer or early fall.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the Harbormaster report prepared by Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick. Mr. Forsdick gave Board members an update on the dredging project with the Army Corp of Engineers. He explained that the Army Corp is scheduling the work for December 2013-March 2014. Besides the channel, they will also dredge a small area inside the Cove in the Federal waterway. Mr. Forsdick reported that he will be working with town staff to develop regulations for boating within the Cove as per the Harbor Management plan. These regulations will follow the Federal and State regulations.

2. Boating Infrastructure Grant.

Ms. Bagley reported that the state has asked for additional information for the grant contract and Charlie Forsdick is assisting Ms. Bagley with this process. He has contacted the Ocean and Coastal consultant who prepared the grant application for his assistance in responding to the State's questions. Ms. Bagley has requested a proposal from Ocean and Coastal for the final design plans and bid specifications for the Cove docks and boat ramp.

3. July 6th Hartford Fireworks.

Mr. Forsdick reported that he is working with town staff to prepare the Cove boat launch area for the fireworks on the river. Cove staff will work later to cover the boaters coming back from the fireworks and a light tower will be rented to assist boaters as they remove their boat from the water. Mr. Forsdick will be operating the harbormaster boat during this event to monitor boat traffic in the Cove and on the river.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Carmelo Amoddio and seconded by Richard Lepore to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department