

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, November 21, 2013

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

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – October 24, 2013.

Tom Mull moved to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Leonard and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – October 2013.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by board members. John Rascius mentioned that the Holidays on Main event was very good last year. It was cold, but the event had a lot of people attending and things to do.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Holidays on Main Street – December 5.
2. Santa's Pancake Breakfast – December 7.

Flyer was distributed at meeting. Ms. Bagley reported that they usually serve about 600 breakfast meals.

E. Old Business.

1. Financial Report on 2013 Cove Boating Season.

Board members reviewed the report and noted that launchings were down this past summer due to high water in the Cove and on the CT River. They discussed the five year history of the launchings and the funds collected at this site from the boating traffic. The funds average \$20,000 per year for the past five years.

F. New Business.

1. Webb Tennis Courts.

The town's Engineering Department is working on the design and bid specifications for the courts.

They will bid the project in the winter with construction in the spring. Chairperson Ragonese asked about the budget for this project. Project budget is \$90,000.

2. Willard Pool Project.

A pool consultant has been hired to design new pumps and strainer baskets for the filter operation at Willard Pool. Also, the wading pool filter will be replaced. Currently, bid specifications are being developed for this work and the project will go out to bid in the winter with construction to take place in the spring with completion before the pool opens for the summer. Budget for this project is \$36,000. Chairperson Ragonese asked what other projects were funded in the CIP budget for this year. Those projects are Cove Docks - \$25,000, Community Center heating units - \$25,000, Solomon Welles House replace exterior wood in certain areas - \$35,000 and resurface five school basketball courts - \$30,000.

G. Board Member Comments.

None.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Members reviewed Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick's monthly report. They noted the Cove Launch area closed for the boating season in October and the Harbormaster supervised all the tasks to close the facility.

Chairperson Ragonese discussed the dredging of the channel with board members. The project is out to bid and dredging will take place between January and March. The work is expected to take about four weeks. Board members discussed the condition of the patrol boat. Ms. Bagley distributed a repair estimate from Boat Works to fix the boat. The repair is estimated at \$13,929.50. Mr. Forsdick's report stated that this cost is a lot of money for an old boat. He believes a suitable "new" used one will cost less. Members discussed this issue. Chairperson Ragonese summed up the conversation by outlining three options available for the Harbormaster boat.

1. Repair the old boat.
2. Buy a "new" used boat.
3. Continue to use the existing boat as is.

Ms. Bagley suggested that they research costs for a used boat and come back with some recommendations to the Commission. Commission members agreed with the Harbormaster report that it is not practical to spend almost \$14,000 to repair the current boat.

Chairperson Ragonese noted in the report that the Harbormaster is soliciting help for recommendations for the Deputy Harbormaster vacancy.

2. Boating Infrastructure Grant.

Ms. Bagley reported that she and the Town Manager had a conference call with the state and federal representatives on the interpretation of the in kind service match for the grant. The Town expressed their concerns about the state and federal government not accepting the town's in kind match for the grant. Both representatives explained how some of the in kind services were not eligible. The Town manager asked if the funds for dredging the channel could be used towards the match and the federal representative will check with staff in Washington to determine the eligibility of these funds. At the end of the call it was decided to have Ms. Bagley work with the state representative to determine how much of the in kind match will be accepted by the state and federal government. Ms. Bagley reported that she is still working with the State to figure out the final dollar amount for the in kind services that is acceptable to the grant administrators and how much money is needed for the local match. Once this final amount is determined she will present it to the Town Manager to determine the next steps.

I. December 19, 2013 Board Meeting.

Board members agreed to hold the next meeting of the Advisory Parks and Recreation Board/Harbor Management Commission at Lucky Lou's restaurant on Main Street at 7:00 pm.

J. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Tom Mull and seconded by John Rascius to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department