

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, December 19, 2013

The meeting was held at Lucky Lou's Restaurant on Main Street and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Bill Leonard, Tom Mull, Tom Ragonese and Richard Lepore. Also present was Mike Hurley, Council Liaison, Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

Steve Randall spoke to the board about the fees for the boat launch ramp at Cove Park. He provided board members with a copy of his written report on recommendations for the launching fees. He suggested that fees be based on registered boats or trailered boats. For non registered and non trailered boats he suggested residents not have a fee and non residents pay \$5 for a single launch and \$50 for a season pass. Mr. Randall felt that these boats do not get any services from the boat launch facility. He explained that a non registered and non trailered boat is usually a type of paddleboat like a canoe or kayak. Mr. Randall asked about resident's rights for their property abutting the Cove. Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster, explained that anyone with property abutting the Cove has riparian rights and can launch boats from their property at no charge.

B. Minutes – November 21, 2013.

Bill Leonard moved to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Mull and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – November 2013.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by board members.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Teen Theater 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Ms. Bagley announced that the Teen Theater is celebrating their 25th Anniversary with a cabaret performance on Saturday, December 28, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Silas Deane Middle School auditorium. Current members and alumni will be performing at this event. A reception will be held afterward in the cafeteria.

E. Old Business.

None.

F. New Business.

1. Review of Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Year 2014-15.

Chairperson Ragonese explained the process to board members for reviewing the proposed plan of capital improvements prepared by Ms. Bagley and her staff for all the Parks and Recreation facilities.

Department staff identifies the projects and develops cost estimates for them. Board members received the packet of information on each facility with recommended projects over the next 10 years. Staff prioritizes the projects and submits them to the Parks Board for their consideration and to finalize the priority. Ms. Bagley provided background information on the projects and answered questions from board members. Chairperson Ragonese provided a brief history of how projects are approved and funded in the budget. Chairperson Ragonese noted that some projects remain on the list each year and others do get funded. A motion was made by Bill Leonard and seconded by Richard Lepore to accept the priority list as submitted by the Parks and Recreation staff. Motion passed unanimously. List is included in minutes.

2. Cove Boat Launch Fees.

Chairperson Ragonese discussed with Board members the boat launching fees at the Cove and the information provided by Mr. Randall. They asked Ms. Bagley to provide information on area boat launch fees and a history of the current fees at the Cove facility for their next meeting. The fees will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

G. Board Member Comments.

None.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick reported that the Army Corp will be awarding the contract for dredging the Wethersfield Cove channel and construction will take place between January and March. They will set up a preconstruction meeting and then the contractor will begin work. Mr. Forsdick asked members to review the boating fees carefully because they provide revenue to improve the Cove Park facility and boaters do get services for these fees. He has had discussions with Mr. Walter regarding a more permanent dock system attached to the shore at his property abutting the Cove. They have come to a reasonable solution and Mr. Walter will be presenting his plans to the commission at a later meeting. Mr. Forsdick gave commission members an update on the status of the harbormaster boat. He will need a new (used) boat in the near future and is doing research on boats with town staff. They will work on a plan for the 2014 boating season.

2. Boating Infrastructure Grant.

Ms. Bagley reported that she has been working with the state to finalize the budget for this project. The state had developed a revised budget that only needed an additional \$50,000 from the Town. Ms. Bagley presented this report to the Town Manager and he will work with Ms. Bagley to fund this remaining amount. One suggestion is to take an additional \$25,000 from the Cove Preservation Fund and request the remaining amount from the CIP budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15. The Town Manager authorized Ms. Bagley to move forward with the state and prepare a contract for review by the Town.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Rich Lepore and seconded by Bill Leonard to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department

WETHERSFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY LIST for 2013 -14

December 12, 2013

Dept. Priority			Board Priority
1	Cove Park Docks - Boating Infrastructure Grant match	50,000	
2	Community Center - architect for rooftop air conditioning unit	25,000	
3	Solomon Welles House - architect foundation work/structure	25,000	
4	Mill Woods Park - Replace Docks at Swimming Area	60,000	
5	Mill Woods Park - Replace Bleachers at Softball Field #1	36,000	
6	Willard Pool - Replace translucent wall panels on bathhouse	25,000	
7	Mill Woods Park - Tennis Court Parking Lot Construction	30,000	
8	Mill Woods Park - Renovate Little League Classic field & road	28,000	
9	Basketball Courts - Repair & colorcoat 4 park courts	25,000	
10	Solomon Welles House - Parking Lot	195,000	
11	Mill Woods Park Soccer Field - Master Plan	610,000	

1,109,000