

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Harbor Management Commission  
Minutes - Thursday, June 26, 2014

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, Bill Leonard, Carmelo Amoddio and Tom Mull. Also present was Council Liaison, Mike Hurley and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – April 24, 2014.

Bill Leonard moved to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Mull and approved unanimously. No minutes for May 22, 2014 meeting which was cancelled – no quorum.

C. Monthly Report – April and May 2014.

The Monthly Reports were reviewed by board members. Bill Leonard asked about registration numbers for summer programs. Ms. Bagley reported that registration numbers are good for all programs and registration is still ongoing for most programs. She will provide information on registration numbers for programs at the next meeting.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Ms. Bagley reported that the pools and summer programs opened on June 25.
2. The Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce cosponsored the fireworks on May 31 at Cove Park with the Town. The fireworks event was very successful. An estimated 6,000-8,000 people were in attendance.

E. Old Business.

1. Loretta's Dream Picnic Pavilion.

Ms. Bagley explained that staff have developed policies for the use of the picnic pavilion. Currently town policy does not allow alcohol in town parks. At the last meeting board members had asked her to research the possibility of allowing alcohol at the picnic pavilion. She discussed the use of alcohol at the pavilion with the Police Chief. He had a major concern about allowing alcohol in the park. He discussed with Ms. Bagley the problems the police had in the past with people having alcohol in the park. It took a long time to clean up this problem. The police do not go out of their way to arrest people using alcohol in the park, but will respond to any issues with people drinking alcohol or under the influence. Board members discussed this issue. They did have members of the community request the use of alcohol at the picnic pavilion. Board members also understood the Police Chief's concerns regarding alcohol in the park. They asked Ms. Bagley to monitor the rental use of the picnic pavilion and they will revisit this issue after the picnic season is concluded.

F. New Business.

1. Budget Approved for 2014-15 Fiscal Year.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Council approved the budget submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

2. Summer Tour Date.

Board members set a tentative tour date for the August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. They will discuss the composition of the tour at the next meeting.

3. Loretta's Dream Picnic Pavilion Dedication – June 19, 2014.

Ms. Bagley reported that the dedication of the picnic pavilion went very well. Many of the contractors who volunteered their time were at the dedication and the Loretta's Dream committee did a nice job of recognizing all their efforts. Mayor Montinieri and Town Manager Bridges spoke at this ceremony and thanked the committee for the addition of the picnic pavilion in the park. About 100 people were in attendance for this dedication.

G. Board Member Comments.

Chairperson Ragonese and Tom Mull spoke about the Men's Softball League sponsoring a softball tournament in memory of one of their players who passed away. This tournament will raise funds for some type of memorial for him in the park. The tournament is scheduled for August 23 & 24.

Tom Mull reported that the port-a-let in Mill Woods Park by Fusco Field (lighted softball field) was not being cleaned and asked why the restrooms were not available. Ms. Bagley explained that the restrooms are under renovation and she will contact the port-a-let company to have this port-a-let cleaned twice a week instead of once a week. She will also order another port-a-let for that area of the park. These port-a-lets will be moved so they are closer to the utility building.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Status of Boating Infrastructure Grant with State.

The Town has received the signed contract for the BIG grant from the State. The Town then sent a contract to the engineering firm of Ocean & Coastal for their signature to begin the final design plans. Ocean & Coastal is reviewing the contract this week and expect to get it back to the Town for their signature shortly. A meeting will then be set up with the engineers to discuss the details and timeline for the project.

2. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese went over the Harbormaster report. The Harbormaster is still looking to fill the Deputy Harbormaster position. Also, he will be talking with the engineering consultant to discuss information on a more secure mooring anchor system that will withstand the winter ice.

The Harbormaster boat repair work has been completed by town mechanics. The Harbormaster has identified that the current boat can make it through this year, but will need to be replaced in the following year.

3. Application by Denis Walters for a State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) permit for the anchoring of his dock system DEEP requires a recommendation from the Harbor Management Commission for this work on his dock acknowledging that it is consistent with the Harbor Management Plan. Chairperson Ragonese reminded members that they discussed this project at their January 23, 2014 meeting and were in favor of the improvements to his dock system. Ms. Bagley explained that Mr. Walters came to the Harbor Management Commission for their approval back at the January meeting. Ms. Bagley found out that the proper procedure is for the applicant to first discuss it with town staff in the Engineering Department to determine if it needs the approval of the town commissions (Inland Wetlands/Planning and Zoning/Historic District, etc). It then goes to DEEP and as part of this process the town Harbor Management Commission reviews it too. Mr. Walters has gone to the other town commissions and is now working with DEEP for this permit process. Board members concurred that this work was consistent with the town Harbor Management Plan. Chairperson Ragonese signed the state application form as chairperson of the Harbor Management Commission.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Tom Mull and seconded by Bill Leonard to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department