

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, October 23, 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 Derech, Rich Lepore, Bill Leonard, Tom Mull, Dan Silbo and John Rascius. Also present was Mike Hurley, Town Council Liaison, Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation and Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – September 25, 2014.

Bill Leonard moved to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Rich Lepore and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – September 2014.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by board members. Chairperson Ragonese discussed the success of the Coveside Carnival sponsored by the Keane Foundation and Mikey's Road Race. Board members discussed the status of the high school baseball field and Cottone Field due to the high school renovation project. Ms. Bagley reported that the high school baseball field is used in the fall for practice by the high school field hockey team. Cottone Field is on line for high school fall sports which include football, soccer and field hockey. Also the band practices on Cottone Field.

D. Letters and Announcements.

Children's Halloween Party – Sunday, October 26 at 2 pm at the Community Center.

Chairperson Ragonese reminded board members of the upcoming party this Sunday at the Community Center. A flyer announcing the party was sent to the schools for distribution to the students.

E. Old Business.

1. Webb Tennis Courts.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for a status report on the bid for the construction of new tennis courts at Webb School. These courts will replace the two courts that were closed due to safety issues because of the large cracks in the court surface. She reported that the Town Council awarded the bid for the tennis court construction at their meeting on October 20th and work will start this fall. Council liaison, Mike Hurley provided additional information on the council action.

Board members discussed the condition of sports fields in town. Ms. Bagley informed the board that the Silas Deane Soccer Field was closed due to glass and debris being found on the field in certain locations. Town staff will be developing a plan to remove the glass and debris and repair the field.

F. New Business.

1. Charter Revision Commission.

Chairperson Ragonese informed board members that he and Ms. Bagley were invited to a meeting of the town's charter revision commission. The commission members had a concern about a conflict in the language in the charter as it related to the responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation board.

a. Section 510 which identifies the Parks and Recreation Board in the charter, states "There shall be an **advisory** Parks and Recreation Board...The Parks and Recreation Board shall study the recreation and park facilities and program of the town and shall confer with and **advise** the Director of Parks and Recreation..."

b. Section 604 which discusses the Parks and Recreation Department, states "...The Director of Parks and Recreation, with the **approval** of the Parks and Recreation Board (see Section 510) shall make rules for the use of parks, public grounds and recreation facilities..."

Chairperson Ragonese explained that the question asked by the Charter Commission was did the Park Board want to make rules and policy or be an Advisory Board. The Charter Commission asked Chairperson Ragonese to check with his board and get back to them with their input.

Chairperson Ragonese explained that the board had always acted as an Advisory Board with the director and felt it should continue that way. He has been on the board many years and it has always provided advice to the director. He explained that he is a volunteer and wants to serve in an advisory capacity with the Parks and Recreation Director. Board members agreed with him. Also, they recognized that under the charter description for the Parks and Recreation Board, it identified the board as an Advisory Board. A motion was made by Rich Lepore and seconded by Dan Silbo that the Parks and Recreation Board recommend that under the charter they remain as an Advisory Board and not a rules board. Section 604 should be changed to read "...The Director of Parks and Recreation, with the **advice** of the Parks and Recreation Board..." Changing the word approval to advice corrects the language conflict and matches the language in Section 510." Motion passed unanimously. Chairperson Ragonese will get this input to the Charter Revision Commission.

2. Willard Pool Pumps.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Council approved the bid to replace the pool pumps for the filter operation at Willard Pool. The contractor will start work in the fall and complete the project in the spring. Replacing these pumps is the last phase of upgrading the Willard Pool filter operation.

G. Board Member Comments.

None.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Cove Docks Project.

Ms. Bagley reported that the engineering firm is working on the final design and bid specifications for the docks.

2. Harbormaster Report.

Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick gave his report to the commission members. All but three boats have been removed from their moorings. He reported that the Town Council approved an agreement with MDC for the Harbormaster to use their boat for his duties. He thanked the members for supporting the request to replace the current boat. Mr. Forsdick noted that the Fire Department assisted with removing moorings from the Cove at the end of the boating season. He thanked the Fire Department for their assistance.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

Tom Mull moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Motion was seconded by Rich Lepore and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department