

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Meeting Notes - March 26, 2009

Members present were Richard Lepore and Dan Silbo. There was no quorum to conduct business. Ms. Bagley explained that she had received phone calls from Tom Ragonese, Kevin Rogers and Charlie Wood stating they could not attend tonight's meeting. Richard Lepore opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Since there was no quorum, no votes could be taken on any items.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes February 26, 2009.

Tabled.

C. Monthly Report - February 2009.

Committee members reviewed monthly report.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Town Council Voted to Acquire the Wilkus Farm for Open Space.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Council voted at their meeting on March 16 to purchase the Wilkus Farm for open space. She heard from the Town Manager that a group of residents is petitioning to have this purchase go to referendum for a vote by residents. Mr. Silbo and Mr. Lepore were in favor of the town acquiring this land for open space.

E. Old Business.

1. Mill Woods Park Building Committee Update.

Ms. Bagley reported that the lights have been tested and meet the appropriate standards for the new Little League ball field. The contractor has been out on the field as weather permits and is getting it ready for the upcoming season. Little League volunteers have been working with town staff on soliciting donations of labor and materials for the building of the press box at this field. The goal is to build the press box during the month of April.

F. New Business.

1. 2009-10 Proposed Budget.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Manager has prepared her budget for the Town Council. The major cut to the Parks and Recreation Department is the Nature Center budget. With the exception of \$5,000 in utilities for the building, the budget for this facility and programs have been cut from the town budget. The Parks and Recreation Department is working with the Friends of the Nature Center to have the Nature Center be a self-sustaining program for next year. The Friends will contribute funds towards the operation of the center and the center will use funds in their escrow account to make up the difference for next year's budget costs. The goal is to develop a business plan to run the Nature Center as a self-sustaining operation in the coming years.

2. Review New Fees for Community Center Rentals, Pool Passes and Playgrounds.

Ms. Bagley reported that she made recommendations to increase fees in these areas to help generate additional revenue for the town. These new fee proposals follow the suggestions of Park Board members from their last meeting. They had suggested increasing some fees if it would help with the budget process. These fees will be reviewed at the next meeting.

G. Meeting Closed at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department