

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - Thursday, September 28, 2006

The meeting was held in the Town Manager's conference room at the town hall at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Chairperson Richard Dobmeier, Richard Lepore, Thomas Ragonese, Daniel Silbo, Timothy Verre and Kathleen Bagley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department.

Guests present were Gerry Mascolo and John Thibeault from Wethersfield soccer.

A. Public Comments.

Mr. Mascolo and Mr. Thibeault talked to the members about field conditions in Wethersfield. They explained that they have set up a Field Maintenance Committee consisting of representatives from the different sports leagues in town. This group is willing to work with the town to identify field improvements necessary for the fields and find ways to fund these improvements. They distributed a report identifying three proposals for field improvements for the fall of 2006. These proposals included aerating and over seeding certain fields in town and renovating the infield at the Mill Woods Little League field and the High School Baseball Field. They reported that these improvements would be funded through fundraising efforts of this Committee. They asked the Board to approve their recommendations for the field improvements so they could move forward talking to the Town Manager. Mr. Thibeault reported that he has been talking with the Town Manager about these improvements and will be addressing issues relative to these improvements with her. These issues will include liability issues, union issues and a time schedule to accomplish these improvements. Thomas Ragonese made a motion to recommend to the Town Manager and Town Council that the Advisory Parks and Recreation Board supports the proposals outlined by the Maintenance Committee in their report dated September 28, 2006. These proposals included aeration of fields in town and improvements to the infields at the Mill Woods Little League field and the high school baseball field. The motion was seconded by Daniel Silbo and voted unanimously.

B. [Minutes - July 27, 2006.](#)

Richard Lepore moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Daniel Silbo and voted unanimously.

C. Monthly Reports.

The monthly reports for July and August were reviewed by members.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Leash cutting ceremony for the Dog Park will be October 7, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at the park. Ms. Bagley invited all Board members to attend the ceremony. She reported that the project is on schedule and will open on that date.
2. The Fall, Winter, Spring Brochure 2006-2007 was discussed by members. Richard Dobmeier noted the number of program offerings for residents.

E. Old Business.

1. Mill Woods Master Plan Status.

Ms. Bagley reported that to date the town still had not received the state grant in the amount of \$700,000. She asked the Board members to discuss the feasibility of moving forward with the hiring of an architect. Board members felt it was important to start this process and instructed Ms. Bagley to begin the process for the hiring of the architect to design the Little League and soccer fields for the park. Ms. Bagley will put together a Request for Qualifications for the Board to review at their

October meeting. Thomas Ragonese asked if this proposal could be available for the Mill Woods Master Plan Committee for their October 19, 2006, meeting. Ms. Bagley felt that the proposal could be available for both groups. Both groups will review the proposal and then Board members will give the approval to move forward with advertising for an architect.

2. Bocce Courts.

Ms. Bagley reported that UNICO is almost finished with their Bocce Courts and is looking at an opening date sometime in the middle of October. Ms. Bagley will keep the Board posted on this. She reported that she has received calls at the Recreation office from interested residents waiting for the courts to open. There is a great deal of interest about these courts.

3. High School Tennis Court Repairs.

The Town Council awarded the bid to Dalton Construction for the repair of these tennis courts. The contractor will be starting very shortly and hopes to have the work completed within the fall season.

4. Solomon Welles House Sewer Line.

The sewer line was another capital improvement project and was completed in August. The only item remaining is to repair the sidewalks that were disturbed during this project. Ms. Bagley will be working with the Engineering Department to have the sidewalks repaired.

F. New Business.

1. Election of Chairperson.

Committee members discussed the election of the new chairperson. Nominations were taken from the floor. Richard Lepore nominated Richard Dobmeier and Richard Dobmeier nominated Thomas Ragonese. A vote was taken and Thomas Ragonese will be the new chairperson for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Thomas Ragonese thanked Richard Dobmeier for his years of service as chairperson and thanked the Board for his election. Richard Dobmeier thanked Thomas Ragonese and wished him well as he serves as chairperson of the Board.

2. Keane Foundation Project at Community Center.

Ms. Bagley reported that members of the Keane Foundation Board are meeting with the Town Manager to discuss the appointment of individuals to a building committee to move this project forward. If any Park Board member is interested in serving on the building committee, they should let Ms. Bagley know. Richard Dobmeier said he would consider it and asked Ms. Bagley to contact him regarding this issue.

3. Athletic Field Issues.

These items were covered under Public Comments.

4. Dock Project at Cove Park.

Ms. Bagley reported that they held interviews for the hiring of an engineer to design new docks for Cove Park. These interviews were held this afternoon and a decision will be made in the next two weeks on a recommendation to hire an engineering firm for the design of these docks. The funds for the engineer will come out of the Cove Park Preservation Fund and the goal is to develop good cost numbers to submit as a capital improvement project for the dock replacement.

G. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.