

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board  
Harbor Management Commission  
Minutes - Thursday, February 25, 2016

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Michael Bisi, Tom Mull, Tom Ragonese and Dan Silbo. Also present were Tony Ruggiero, Deputy Harbormaster, and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – January 28, 2016.

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Mull and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – January 2016.

Board members reviewed the monthly report. Chairperson Ragonese asked about the snowshoe competition for Special Olympics. Ms. Bagley reported that it will be held this weekend in Windsor and they have been practicing with limited snow on the ground. Snow will be made for the competition. Chairperson Ragonese reminded members that the Egg Hunt will be early this year, because Easter is March 27<sup>th</sup>.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Staff Retirement – Marty Sitler, Recreation Supervisor.

Ms. Bagley reported that Mr. Sitler has completed his paperwork to retire on June 30, 2016. He is giving advance notice to assist in the hiring process for a new staff member, because the summer is such a busy time. The Town Manager has authorized the hiring process to begin at this time in order to hire an individual as soon as possible to have them on board for the summer season and for training purposes.

2. Advisory Board Membership List.

The updated list was distributed to members.

E. Old Business.

1. Parks and Recreation Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to review the proposed budget with board members. She reported that a difference in her budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 is that the Physical Services Division will be taking over pool maintenance. Therefore all pool maintenance costs have been removed from her budget, with the exception of the water cost. The water cost includes both pools and Mill Woods Park. The Town Manager kept the water account in the Parks and Recreation budget. Board members had a discussion on the budget detail and if fees would need to be increased in the upcoming budget year. Ms. Bagley explained that fees were only being increased in the self-sustaining programs due to the minimum wage rate increase, but all other fees would remain the same. Any fee changes for programs supported by the operating budget would need Park Board and Town Council approval. A recent example was the fee changes for the Cove Boat Launch facility. Those fee changes were reviewed by the Park Board and then recommended to the Town Council for their approval.

Ms. Bagley distributed a list of the Capital Improvement Projects for Parks and Recreation recommended by the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee for fiscal year 2016-2017. These projects are proposed for funding: Willard Pool roof, Mill Woods docks, bleacher replacement at Mill Woods Softball Field #1, Community Center phase 2 asbestos abatement project, Community Center engineer for design of rooftop air conditioning unit and Mill Woods Park fence replacement at pool.

F. New Business.

1. Travel Basketball League.

Chairperson Ragonese informed board members that there was an incident between a referee and a coach at a recent travel basketball game. The president of Youth Travel Basketball, Mike Queno, was present at the game and called the police. Mr. Queno ejected the coach from the building and cancelled the game. He will be discussing this incident tonight at a travel basketball meeting with his board. This group is not sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, but staff work closely with the league officers. No one was arrested and the league will handle the incident.

G. Board Member Comments.

None.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. United States Army Corp Information on Cove Moorings.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that he had a discussion with the Harbormaster, Charlie Forsdick, about the question on the moorings from the last meeting. He did not realize that the mooring issues had to do with the Yacht Club's privately owned mooring tackle in the Cove. He did not feel that explanation was given during the discussion last month. He requested that the minutes be revised to reflect that omission. Board members agreed that the privately owned mooring tackle was not explained and the minutes should reflect the discussion. Ms. Bagley will make the appropriate changes to the minutes so that they do not reflect "privately owned approved tackle", it will just state mooring tackle.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the issue with the moorings and asked Ms. Bagley to provide updated information on her discussion with the Army Corps. Ms. Bagley distributed an email she received today from Mr. Craig Martin, Project Manager, Navigation Section, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She had sent him an email requesting information on the following question: "should the annual fee be charged for any mooring space occupied by private mooring tackle whether or not a boat is moored on that tackle?" He responded back in his email "if an individual (whether a member of the Yacht Club or general public) registers to use a mooring provided by the town or self-installs one in a manner approved by the HMP, that individual is required to pay the annual mooring fee regardless if there is a vessel on it or not."

Ms. Bagley reported that she had received an earlier email from Jack Guilmartin referencing the same question. He had spoken to an individual at the Army Corps. He received a different answer to the same question. The individual told him that "Absolutely not, they do not require any moorings to be billed that aren't being used nor do they collect any fees or set fees." Ms. Bagley forwarded this email to Mr. Craig Martin and asked him for some input on this different response. Mr. Martin wrote in his email that "I'm not sure with whom he spoke, but I think something may have been lost in translation as the Corps officially considers registering for and being assigned a mooring by the Town/Harbormaster as "use", as designation of the spot by the Harbormaster removes it from general public availability. If you happen to find out with whom Mr. Guilmartin spoke, please forward it on so I can touch base with this individual so they can provide correct information in the future."

Based on this information, Chairperson Ragonese noted that the Yacht Club will have to pay for the mooring tackle spots they have in the Cove whether or not a boat is on the mooring or they can pull the mooring tackle. Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to notify the Yacht Club of the Army Corps information.

2. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the report with commission members.

3. Town of Glastonbury – No Wake Zone on CT River.

Town Manager, Jeff Bridges, sent a memo to Ms. Bagley requesting the Harbor Management Commission review the request from the Glastonbury Town Manager, Richard Johnson, regarding the “No Wake Buoys” for the Glastonbury boat launch and Riverfront Park. Commission members asked that the buoys be positioned in the correct location and checked on occasion to make sure they are not drifting to a new location. At the end of this past summer, they were in a different location.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

Tom Mull moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion was seconded by Mike Bisi and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department