

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, April 28, 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, Bill Derech, Richard Lepore, 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 – March 24, 2016.

Tom Mull moved to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan Silbo and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – March 2016.

Board members reviewed the monthly report. Chairperson Ragonese noted that Little League had their opening day on April 23rd. Dan Silbo commented that a lot of children and adults attended the event. Chairperson Ragonese reminded members that the children's Fishing Derby was being held this Saturday, April 30th at Spring Street Pond. Two qualifying Special Olympic athletes will be attending track and field events with an adult chaperone in St. Kitts.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Plaque on Broad Street Green in Memory of Thayer Chase.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Village Improvement Association is looking to install a plaque on the south green in front of the tree planted in memory of Thayer Chase. The plaque would be located on top of a rock similar to other rocks with plaques on the Green. Board members had no problem with an additional rock with a plaque on the Green. The Wethersfield Historic District Commission will also review this proposal.

E. Old Business.

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

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to provide information on the status of the budget process. She reported that the Town Council is reviewing the budget and met with Department Heads last Saturday. She explained that as part of her revenue projection for the town next year, she will be raising program fees and generating an additional \$25,000 in revenue for the town. Town Council has until May 15th to adopt the budget for next year.

F. New Business.

1. Spring Ballfield Preparations.

Chairperson Ragonese discussed the condition of the spring ballfields with board members. Ms. Bagley gave an overview of the fields and town groups using them. Currently, all fields have been prepped for the season for High School teams, Little League, Youth Soccer, Youth Lacrosse and Men's Softball. Board members asked if the town is using the new field or the gymnasium at the CREC Discovery School in town. Ms. Bagley responded that the town is not officially using the field, but the youth soccer group in town has made an arrangement with CREC to use their field. The town has not yet looked into using the gym at CREC.

G. Board Member Comments.

Dan Silbo asked if the town could work with the Hartford Belle Riverboat for charters on the Connecticut River. Ms. Bagley reported that she and the town planner had a meeting with the owner about charters coming into the Wethersfield Cove. The owner was going to develop a proposal for the Town to consider. Bill Derech said that he was told that Wethersfield golfers at Goodwin Park were paying higher fees this year. Ms. Bagley had not heard anything about this from residents, but asked members to have golfers call her if there is a problem. Mike Bisi brought up Rocky Hill's new park policy of no smoking in town parks. He asked if Wethersfield was considering it. Ms. Bagley explained that the department has studied it, but talking with the police it is very difficult to enforce. Staff continues to research this policy and will look at it for future implementation.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the report with commission members. They asked how many moorings were sold last season. Ms. Bagley thought it was 20. Chairperson Ragonese discussed the boat situation for the harbormasters. He asked Ms. Bagley to explain the boat status. She reported that the Town Manager is working on an agreement with Riverfront Recapture to get a boat. Chairperson Ragonese read members an email he received from Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster about his concerns with this boat from Riverfront Recapture. Mr. Forsdick wants to make sure that the boat is in good shape and the motor works. He does not want to have the same problems that he is having with the old boat. Chairperson Ragonese asked that the boat be inspected to find out its condition and have boat mechanics check it out. Board members were in agreement with Chairperson Ragonese to get the boat inspected. Ms. Bagley will work with maintenance staff to have the boat inspected by boating mechanics. Members discussed the condition of the docks because of the seagulls. The docks will have to be cleaned prior to the start of the boating season. One of the wood docks will be installed in the water (closest dock to the channel) for use by fisherman and the public.

2. Dock Procedures for High Water.

Chairperson Ragonese asked if all members had seen the dock procedures report for high water sent to them by Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster. Ms. Bagley explained that it is a first draft of these policies and will be reviewed by staff and discussed with the Harbormasters. A final draft will be brought back to the commission for their review. Members can provide input to Ms. Bagley or the Harbormasters at any time. Members reviewed the first draft.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

Richard Lepore moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion was seconded by Mike Bisi and passed unanimously.

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