

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, September 27, 2012

The meeting was held at Wethersfield Town Hall and called to order by Acting Chairperson Carmelo Amoddio at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Carmelo Amoddio, Tom Mull, John Rascius and Jeremy Donnelly. Also present were Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation, Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster and Charlie Viani, Deputy Harbormaster and Mike Orsini, representative from Loretta's Dream Fundraising Committee.

A. Public Comments – None.

B. Minutes – August 23, 2012.

John Rascius moved to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2012 monthly meeting. The motion was seconded by Jeremy Donnelly and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – August 2012.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members. Ms. Bagley reported that the expansion of the Webb playscape was completed in time for the opening of school. Assistance was provided by the Physical Services Division for the installation of the equipment and site work. The summer programs and outdoor pools had good attendance. Mr. Rascius asked if the summer programs make money. Ms. Bagley explained that most of the summer programs pay for themselves and provide some revenue for the Town. The outdoor pools are funded by the town budget. All revenue generated at the pools is deposited in the Town account.

D. Letters and Announcements.

Acting Chairperson Amoddio noted that the Fall Brochure was delivered to Wethersfield homes on August 30 through the Rare Reminder newspaper. The brochure is also available on line. Residents can register for programs on line, at the office or by mail for all programs. Registration is now ongoing for all the programs. Board members had a discussion regarding printing the brochure and distributing it to all households in Wethersfield or just having it available on line. Board members felt that it was important to have a printed copy because it would serve as a reminder of all programs. Some families or individuals may not have access to a computer in order to go on line. Board members also discussed if the Parks and Recreation website was linked to the different youth, high school and adult sport schedules in Town. Ms. Bagley explained that the Parks and Recreation website identifies the sport organizations in Town but is not linked to their sport schedules. Board members thought it would be a good idea to provide this link on their website. Ms. Bagley will work with Town staff to have this link provided from the Parks and Recreation website.

E. Old Business.

1. Cove Boat Launch Fees.

Ms. Bagley discussed with Board members that at a previous meeting a resident had asked the Board to review the fees for canoes and kayaks. The resident felt the fees were high for canoes and kayaks. Acting Chairperson Amoddio suggested that for the November Board meeting they have the following information provided to determine if fees should be changed for the Boat Launch operation at Wethersfield Cove:

- a. History of revenue provided by the boat fees for the past five years.
- b. Breakdown of fees for each operation (season pass, daily, etc.).
- c. Current fees and fees for neighboring boat launch facilities.
- d. Recommendation from Parks and Recreation staff for any fee changes.

F. New Business

1. Status of Picnic Pavilion Project at Mill Woods Park – Loretta's Dream Committee.

Mr. Mike Orsini, a representative from Loretta's Dream Committee, gave Board members an update on the picnic pavilion project. He reported that his committee has been holding fundraisers for this project and they are looking for construction in the spring or summer. They selected a pavilion design and met with Parks and Recreation staff to finalize the location in Mill Woods Park. The pavilion will be located in the picnic area adjacent to the parking lot. Their estimated budget is \$80,000; however, they are working on getting in kind services donated to the project to help reduce the cost. The committee's next step is to get approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission and other Town Commissions for the pavilion design and site location. He will be working with Parks and Recreation staff and Town staff for these approvals. Acting Chairperson Amoddio thanked Mr. Orsini for the update.

G. Board Member Comments.

Mr. Rascius reported that he attended a high school soccer game at night under the lights and it was a great experience. He asked if the high school sports and youth activities will be impacted by the high school renovation project. Ms. Bagley explained that Town and Board of Education staff have started meeting to prepare for the issues that will be associated with the renovation project. It will have a definite impact on Parks and Recreation activities, youth and high school sport activities and community activities at the High School campus. Ms. Bagley will keep the Board updated as plans are developed for the different activities.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Harbormaster, Charlie Forsdick, reviewed his report with members. Report is attached to minutes. Mr. Forsdick reported that the Harbor Management Plan has been approved by the State. They made some minor changes regarding fishing restrictions in the Cove and the Army Corps of Engineers made some changes regarding the mooring fields. All these changes have been incorporated into the plan. This updated version will be sent out electronically to all commission members for the October meeting. Also, Ms. Bagley will bring copies of the plan to the meeting. Mr. Forsdick explained the changes in the fishing areas. Fishing is not allowed between or on the docks because of the safety issues for boaters. Fishing is restricted in the channel so as not to interfere with boating traffic. Commission members talked about developing signage to make people aware of the policies in the Plan; or creating a Park rules handout for this facility. Staff will look into these suggestions for the 2013 boating season.

Commission members talked about the next steps for the Harbor Management Plan. Since the State has accepted the plan, any changes made at this point would have to go back to the State for their review. Commission members were comfortable with the changes made to the plan by the State and felt that enough public comment had been solicited and incorporated into the plan. The next step is to submit to the Town Council for their acceptance. Staff will begin the process of submitting the plan for Town Council action.

2. Status of Permit Process with State for Cove Docks & Boat Launch Ramp.

Ms. Bagley reported that the State is very close to issuing the permit for this project. Hopefully, the Town will hear by the end of September.

3. Review of Walter Dock Options.

Harbormaster, Charlie Forsdick, provided commission members with two options for properly securing Mr. Walter's docks. He recommended option #1 at an estimated cost of \$300. This option would secure the dock to two separate mushroom anchors and provided the necessary stability to hold the dock in place.

Commission members concurred with Mr. Forsdick's recommendation.

4. Harbormaster Patrol Boat.

Mr. Forsdick discussed the condition of the patrol. He explained that the boat will require significant repair work over the winter. It appears that the console has separated from the bottom of the boat. This repair work will be evaluated to determine if another boat might be a better option. The Harbormasters are looking into options for grants for a boat, or if the state or federal government has surplus boats.

5. Cove Cleanup.

Mr. Forsdick reported that a volunteer cleanup of the Cove will take place on Saturday, September 29. This cleanup effort is a part of the Source to Sea cleanup program of the Connecticut River. The MDC, Nature Center, CT Watershed Association and volunteers will all be part of this effort on Saturday. Also, the Harbormaster and Deputy Harbormaster will be assisting with the cleanup.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by John Rascius and seconded by Tom Mull to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.