

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Harbor Management Commission  
Minutes - Thursday, December 15, 2011

The meeting was held at Lucky Lou's Restaurant at 222 Main Street, Wethersfield. Chairperson Tom Ragonese called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Chairperson Tom Ragonese, Dan Silbo and Richard Lepore. Also present were Mike Hurley, Council Liaison, Kathleen Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation, Charlie Forsdick, Acting Harbor Master and Charlie Viani.

A. Public Comments.

Charlie Forsdick talked about the Capital Improvement Project list for the Parks and Recreation Department. He asked the Board to keep the dock project at Wethersfield Cove as a top priority.

B. Minutes – November 17, 2011.

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes of November 17, 2011. The motion was seconded by Richard Lepore and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – November 2011.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members. Chairman Tom Ragonese commented on the Holidays on Main Street event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Town. He noted that double the number of people attended from the previous year and it was a good event. Approximately 3,000 people attended the event this year. The tree lighting ceremony was good. Dan Silbo noted that it was difficult to park on the side streets because of the leaves. Maybe for future events these leaves can be removed for the event. Other suggestions included having another police officer helping with traffic at the intersection of Main Street and Church Street and repositioning the lighting for some of the dark areas. Lights were not extended high enough to get their maximum distance and keep the light glare out of people's eyes.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. The Town of Wethersfield received \$200,000 from the State of Connecticut for their grants to light the Cottone Football Field at the High School. Chairman Ragonese reported that the remaining funds needed for the lights were received from donations and the Cottone Rental Fund. An additional \$7,100 will be requested from the Cottone Rental Fund to complete payment on the lights. Chairperson Ragonese explained that two additional expenses came up that were not in the original budget; a different type of circuit breaker was needed for the lights and an underground pull box was installed for electrical connections. The request will go to the Town Council in the new year for the use of these funds. Board members commented on the success of the lights for the fall athletic season at the high school.

E. Old Business.

1. Lighted Little League Stadium Donors Plaque.

Chairperson Ragonese discussed the location of the plaque identifying donors for the lighted field. Board members talked about placing it on the press box, the outfield fence or on a large boulder adjacent to the field. Further discussion will be held once the plaque is completed. Chairperson Ragonese shared the draft language for the plaque with Board members. He asked Ms. Bagley to get a cost estimate for the plaque and provide some research on the Board members suggestions for a location. Ms. Bagley will report back at the next meeting.

2. Cottone Field Donors Plaque.

Chairman Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to work with Dan O'Connor from the Cottone Lights Fundraising committee to design a plaque for donors for this project. He suggested that she contact Mr. O'Connor in the new year.

F. New Business.

1. Capital Improvement Plan for Budget Year 2012-13.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Board members for their input on the proposed CIP projects presented by the Parks and Recreation Department in the board packet. Board members discussed the projects and set up their list of priorities. Dan Silbo moved to approve the list submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department with the Board's priorities:

1. Cove Park Docks - Boating Infrastructure Grant match	\$25,000
2. Mill Woods Park – Design Beach Drainage System	\$26,000
3. Willard Pool – Replace Controllers and Chlorine Delivery System	\$49,400
4. Nature Center – Replace Generator	\$29,000
5. Solomon Welles House – Parking Lot Improvements	\$195,000
6. Mill Woods Park – Replace Bleachers at Softball Field #1 & 2	\$31,000
7. Mill Woods Park – Tennis Court Parking Lot Construction	\$30,000
8. Community Center – Renovate Ladies Bathroom in Main Hallway	\$36,000
9. Mill Woods Park – Renovate Softball Fields #3 & 4	\$30,000
10. Webb School – Replace Tennis Courts and Fencing	\$90,000
11. High School Athletic Complex – Replace Tennis Courts (8)	\$400,000
12. Mill Woods Park Soccer Field – Master Plan	\$607,000

Motion seconded by Richard Lepore and voted unanimously.

G. Board Member Comments.

None

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbor Management Plan.

Chairperson Ragonese asked for a status report on the plan. Acting Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick explained that the plan (draft #3) has been submitted to the State for their preliminary review. The State will get back to staff with their recommendations. These recommendations will be reviewed by staff and then the Harbor Management Commission. Once that is done a final version will be presented to the State for their official review and approval. Once that process is completed, the plan will go to the Town Council for their review and approval. Chairperson Ragonese suggested to the Commission that any recommendations from the State can be emailed to the Commission members for their approval unless there are issues that need to be discussed. Then these issues can be brought up at their January meeting. Ms. Bagley will work with the Acting Harbormaster to continue this process with the State.

2. Harbor Master Report.

Acting Harbor Master, Charlie Forsdick distributed a Harbor Master report to the Commission. He reviewed the items with Commission members. Report is attached to the minutes. Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to follow up on three projects discussed in the Harbor Master report. These projects are:

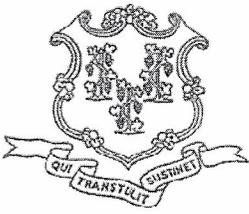
- a. Docks being removed from the Cove for the winter season by the Physical Services Department.
- b. Develop a draft application for any projects coming before the Harbor Management Commission.
- c. Work with Town staff to contact the owners of potential disposal sites for dredging the channel and getting back to the Army Corps of Engineers with this information.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

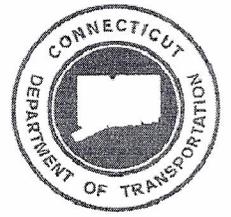
A motion was made by Dan Silbo and seconded by Richard Lepore to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
HARBOR MASTER  
WETHERSFIELD, CT



**REPORT to WETHERSFIELD HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

December 15, 2011

**I. Moorings**

All Town moorings were prepared for winter in October.  
All WCYC moorings were removed from the Cove by Thanksgiving.  
Hm Forsdick is working with the Town and the Yacht Club to establish a common mooring tag design and arrange for purchase of same for application next Spring.

**II. Docks**

The old docks remain in the Cove and if not removed, will be severely damaged by ice when sustained cold weather sets in necessitating major repair or rebuild prior to opening of next boating season.

The new dock system remains in the permit stage, awaiting Army corps permit for material disposal and DEEP permit for construction. Town staff and our consultants continue to monitor progress. We are still anticipating that the DEEP will grant the permit by Spring 2012.

**III. Channel Dredging**

The Harbormaster and Town staff continue to work closely with the Army Corps and State DOT to keep this project moving forward. The Army corps is committed to, at least, fund and see the permit stage through to completion. The State DOT continues to encourage us to apply for DOT funding when the permit(s) are obtained. Currently, the Corps is waiting for the Town to contact the owners of two potential disposal sites to ascertain their degree of interest in accepting qualified dredging spoils. The Corps will then take the appropriate additional samples of material in the channel and potential disposal sites to determine suitability of the potential disposal site(s). It is expected that the permits could be issued sometime during the Spring of 2012. It is still possible that actual dredging could be done this Summer, 2012.

**IV. Harbor Management Plan**

Hm Forsdick and M. Sitler are scheduled to meet with DEEP analyst December 27<sup>th</sup> to review her suggestions for changes, prior to formal submission to DEEP for approval.

**V. Items for Action**

Hm Forsdick suggests that an application form be developed for use by those parties applying to the Commission for various approvals.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_