

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, January 24, 2013

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Richard Lepore and John Rascius. Also present were town resident, Denis Walter and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

Denis Walter spoke to the Commission about the letter he received concerning the mooring of his boat and docks in Wethersfield Cove. He explained to the members that he is willing to address the concerns about his current mooring, but had some questions as to the location of the anchors and if he could possibly use one heavier anchor instead of two anchors at different locations. Commission members explained that the Harbormaster had concerns with the anchoring of his docks in the Cove and wanted to make sure that they were anchored properly. The concern was that they could break away. Chairperson Ragonese suggested that Mr. Walter email Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick to discuss the issue and Mr. Walter's concerns. Mr. Walter noted that he had Mr. Forsdick's email and would contact him about his concerns. Chairperson Ragonese suggested providing Mr. Forsdick with some bullet points about Mr. Walter's ideas for securing his boat and docks in the Cove. The Commission could get input from Mr. Forsdick to determine the best approach to resolving the anchoring of Mr. Walter's docks and boat.

B. Minutes – December 20, 2012.

Richard Lepore moved to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2012 monthly meeting. The motion was seconded by John Rascius and approved unanimously. John Rascius noted that the minutes talked about replacing the synthetic turf at the high school football field at the end of the high school renovation project. Chairperson Ragonese explained that the turf has a life history of about 7-10 years and it will come due at the end of the renovation project. It makes sense to consider replacing the turf at that time.

C. Monthly Report – December 2012.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by Board members. Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for any comments. She reported that Holidays on Main Street went very well and a lot of people attended the event. John Rascius was at the event and enjoyed it very much. There were a lot of activities. The food and the wine tasting in the Webb Barn was great.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Meeting Dates for 2013.

Ms. Bagley distributed the meeting dates for 2013 with the current list of board members. She will email this list to all board members as part of the February meeting packet.

E. Old Business.

1. Mill Woods Beach Drainage Project.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for an update on this project. He noted that the engineer was hired in December. Ms. Bagley explained that the engineer has begun developing preliminary plans for the project. The goal is to complete construction before the summer swim season.

F. New Business.

1. New Town Website.

Ms. Bagley announced that the Town is working on a new website that will be released to the public in the near future. She explained that her staff has been working on the Parks and Recreation Department pages and have provided a lot of information on the new site. Also, the Town website will have a button for customer service requests. This system will allow residents to request a service from the Town through the website. Staff is in training now for this part of the site.

2. Willard Pool Project – Replace Controllers and Chlorine Delivery System.

Chairperson Ragonese explained that the Town received funding in the Capital Improvement Budget for the replacement of the chlorine delivery system at Willard Pool. Ms. Bagley reported that the architect is finishing the bid specifications for this project and the tentative date to bid the project is February 4, 2013.

G. Board Member Comments.

None.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the Harbormaster report included in their packet. He reported that the dredging project through the State Department of Transportation was not included in the State January Bond Commission agenda. Chairperson Ragonese reported that he received an email from the Harbormaster, Charlie Forsdick, saying that maybe the dredging project will be on the February bond agenda. The Commissioner of DOT has to submit the Wethersfield Cove dredging project as one of DOT projects. Hopefully, the commissioner will consider it because of all the effort that the Army Corps of Engineers has put into this project. They have spent over \$100,000 on the preliminary plans for the dredging and are ready to move forward if funding becomes available for the actual dredging of the Cove.

Ms. Bagley reported that a representative from DEEP has contacted her about the paperwork for the boating grant. The state is working on the paperwork to authorize the funding for this project. Our goal is to install the new docks at the end of the summer or early fall.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the harbormaster boat is being repaired by a firm in South Windsor and will be ready for the upcoming boating season.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to give a report on her meeting with members of the Wethersfield Yacht Club. At the meeting were Wethersfield Cove Yacht Club members, Tom Mull and Jim Harris, Harbormaster, Charlie Forsdick, Recreation Supervisor, Marty Sitler and Ms. Bagley. The meeting went very well. Parks and Recreation staff will be working with representatives from the Yacht Club to process the renting of Cove moorings and developing the list of Yacht Club members who will have access to the season launching pass because they have a Cove mooring.

2. Harbor Management Plan – Approved by Town Council – January 7, 2013.

Chairperson Ragonese had attended the Town Council meeting on January 7, 2013 and the Town Council approved the Harbor Management Plan. Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick and Director, Kathy Bagley provided information to the Town Council.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by John Rascius and seconded by Richard Lepore to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department