

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Harbor Management Commission  
Minutes - Thursday, August 22, 2013

A boat tour of the Cove and the CT River in Wethersfield was held prior to the meeting. Members present were Jordan Dikegoros and Richard Lepore. Also present were Council Liaison, Michael Hurley, Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick, Deputy Harbormaster Charlie Viani and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

The meeting was held at Lucky Lou's Restaurant and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:25 p.m. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Jordan Dikegoros and Richard Lepore. Also present were Council Liaison, Michael Hurley, Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster, Charlie Viani, Deputy Harbormaster and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – June 27, 2013.

Richard Lepore moved to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Jordan Dikegoros and approved unanimously. The July 25 meeting was canceled because no quorum was available.

C. Monthly Report – June & July 2013.

The Monthly Reports were reviewed by Board members. Chairperson Ragonese commented on the new picnic pavilion being constructed in Mill Woods Park. It looks good in the park and they are working on completing the installation. This pavilion is being built with donated funds from the Loretta's Dream Foundation. Outdoor pool seasons were successful. Jordan Dikegoros asked about attendance numbers for both pools. Ms. Bagley will get those numbers for the board meeting in September. Ms. Bagley reported that the Youth Development position has been filled. This position is shared between the Parks and Recreation Department and the Social and Youth Services Department. The responsibilities for the Parks and Recreation Department are the operation of the Nature Center. Youth Services responsibilities are youth development programs. Ms. Rachel Sunny has been hired for this position. She started on July 18 and has been involved in the Nature Center summer camp program. She has a degree in environmental studies and worked for the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for nine years. Ms. Bagley commented that she has a lot of experience and is doing a good job with the summer programs at the Nature Center.

D. Letters and Announcements.

None.

E. Old Business.

1. Mill Woods Beach Drainage Project - Complete.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for a status report. She reported that the project is complete and there have been no beach washouts this year during the swimming season.

2. Loretta's Dream Picnic Pavilion.

The pavilion is under construction with completion scheduled for the fall. The Loretta's Dream Foundation is discussing plans for a ribbon cutting ceremony possibly during the fall season.

F. New Business.

Chairperson Ragonese asked if Board members had any new business. Jordan Dikegoros asked if the Parks and Recreation Department could help promote the free ice skating at Bushnell Park in the winter months. Also with a trolley running from Wethersfield to Bushnell Park on weekend evenings, this could be a great family event. Ms. Bagley will look into it.

G. Board Member Comments.

None

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the report prepared by Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick. Mr. Forsdick reported that the Town had 20 moorings in the Cove, but over the winter three pulled out of the water. They are being looked at to determine how they came loose. The other 17 were rented during the boating season. Due to the amount of rain this summer, the docks were inaccessible a good part of the summer. With the installation of the new dock system, this problem will be corrected. The new docks will rise and fall with the water level in the Cove. Also, the Harbormasters did some inspections of jet skis in the Cove. They checked licenses and equipment.

2. Boating Infrastructure Grant.

Ms. Bagley reported that she and Charlie Forsdick are still working with the state to provide all the information needed for the development of the grant contract. Hopefully this will be completed in the next several weeks.

3. Proposal from Ocean & Coastal for Final Design Work.

Town Attorney developed contract for hiring Ocean & Coastal for final design work, development of bid specifications and construction administration for the Cove docks. Contract is being negotiated with Ocean & Coastal Consultants. Town Council has authorized the work pending approval of signed contract prepared by the Town attorney.

4. Boating Regulations.

Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick reported that he is working on boating regulations for the Cove and CT River in Wethersfield by following the state laws. He explained that if Wethersfield adopts boating regulation ordinances, then fees can be assessed and collected from users violating the ordinances. These fees can be revenue for Wethersfield. He is reviewing all pertinent material and just wanted to give Commission members preliminary information. Chairperson Ragonese asked if it was necessary to have these ordinances since the State already has boating regulations. Mr. Forsdick explained that it is in the Harbor Management Plan to determine if any ordinances are necessary for the Cove. He is taking one step at a time; he will look into all the issues and report back to the Commission. Ms. Bagley explained that this will need to be looked at closely because there are many issues associated with approving and enforcing town ordinances.

5. Yacht Club Mooring Buoys.

Mr. Forsdick reported that he worked with the Yacht Club and all their mooring buoys are compliant.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Jordan Dikegoros and seconded by Richard Lepore to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department