

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, September 26, 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, Tom Mull and Bill Leonard. Also present were Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster, and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Chairperson Tom Ragonese welcomed new board member, Bill Leonard to the Advisory Parks and Recreation Board and the Harbor Management Commission.

A. Public Comments.

Mr. Jim Woodworth spoke to Board members about the Source to Sea Cleanup of the Connecticut River taking place at Cove Park on Saturday, October 5th. This cleanup is cosponsored by MDC, Great Meadows Conservation Trust and the Town. He explained that volunteers will be cleaning up certain areas of the shore along the river in Wethersfield. He asked that the launching fees for all boats, canoes and kayaks involved in the cleanup be waived for this event. Ms. Bagley had no problem with the fees being waived for the river cleanup. She will notify staff at the boat launch facility not to charge any boats involved in the clean up. Mr. Woodworth also gave Board members maps of self guided walking and biking trails in town and through the meadows. He asked Board members to consider reducing or eliminating the boat launch fees for canoes and kayaks at the Cove. Mr. Ragonese explained that the Board will be reviewing the fees for the boat launch facility as work progresses on improvements to the boat launch area.

B. Minutes – August 22, 2013.

Tom Mull moved to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2013 meeting with the following correction. On page 2, Item H.5. Yacht Club Mooring Buoys - change the sentence from “Mr. Forsdick reported that he worked with the Yacht Club and all their mooring buoys are compliant” to “Mr. Forsdick reported that he worked with the Yacht Club and all their mooring buoys will be compliant in 2014”. The motion was seconded by Bill Leonard and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – June & July 2013.

The Monthly Reports were reviewed by Board members. Chairperson Ragonese noted that the Coveside Carnival scheduled for October 18-20 and is sponsored by the Keane Foundation. Mr. Leonard asked if groups have to pay for the use of the park. Ms. Bagley explained that each park use request is reviewed by staff to determine what costs, if any, need to be charged. She provided an example - the softball fields in Mill Woods Park can be rented by outside groups and they will be charged a rental fee and other fees if appropriate. If a nonprofit group from Town wants to hold an event in a park, all plans are reviewed with staff and fees may be charged if the Town incurs any expenses.

D. Letters and Announcements.

None.

E. Old Business.

1. Loretta’s Dream Picnic Pavilion.

Ms. Bagley reported that this project is almost complete. Landscaping and security lighting will be completed shortly. Staff is looking to clean up this entire end of the park and pave the parking lot in the spring of 2014.

2. Emerson Williams Playscape.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for a status report on this project. She explained that the playground equipment is all installed and final landscaping and the installation of the ADA path are the remaining items. These items will be completed by the end of October.

F. New Business.

1. Pool Attendance for the Summer of 2013.

Chairperson Ragonese noted that the agenda provided the summer attendance numbers for the outdoor pools. Board members discussed the attendance numbers and were pleased by residents' use.

	<u>Daily Admittance</u>	<u>Swim Lessons</u>
Mill Woods Pool	12,109	2,997
Willard Pool	13,319	4,801

2. Visit from Japanese Delegation from Nagayo.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Mayor and other government officials will be visiting the town from Nagayo, Japan, Wethersfield's sister city. Mayor Hemmann is working with staff and residents to plan for their visit in October.

G. Board Member Comments.

None.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Mr. Forsdick distributed his report and reviewed it with commission members. He explained that warnings have been given for excessive wake and speed in the Cove area. He is evaluating all moorings since they are six years old and may need some maintenance. He is also evaluating the boat because it has been taking on some water and the hull may be rotting. He is looking into options for replacement or repair.

2. Boating Infrastructure Grant.

Ms. Bagley reported that the state and federal government have made a determination that most of the Town's in kind service match for the grant is not eligible. She will be working with the Town Manager and the consultant that prepared the town's grant application to research this issue and determine the Town's course of action for this grant.

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

Ocean and Coastal has agreed with the contract language and the town attorney will develop the final document for signatures. Document will not be signed until grant issues are finalized.

4. Chairperson Ragonese asked that a revenue report on Cove boating be provided at the end of the season.

Also, commission members suggested additional advertisement for the pump out station located at the boat launch area.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Bill Leonard and seconded by Tom Mull to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department