

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, March 27, 2014

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

A. Public Comments.

John Paul DiGrazia at 860 Cloverdale Circle, Wethersfield spoke to the board members about holding a car show at Cove Park on July 27th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Rain date is August 2nd. He distributed a letter to all the board members explaining the event. This show is called the Chrysler Convention and features cars manufactured by Chrysler over the years. The event would benefit The Muscular Dystrophy Association of America. In addition to this beneficiary, it will benefit the Chamber of Commerce Fireworks Fund. The public enters the event for free and the cars pay an entrance fee. He would handle all the details and clean up the park after he was done with the event. Ms. Bagley explained that she met with Mr. DiGrazia to go over the details prior to the board meeting. Also present at this meeting was the Town Planner, Peter Gillespie and Recreation Supervisor, Marty Sitler. Mr. DiGrazia would have to pay the non-profit fee to use the park and cover any other expenses associated with the event. Chairperson Ragonese thanked Mr. DiGrazia for his presentation and asked board members for their input. Board members thought it was a good event for the park. They asked about the size of the crowd and number of cars in the event. Mr. DiGrazia said that a good crowd would be between 400-500 people and approximately 100 registered cars. Chairperson Ragonese suggested voting on the approval of the event under new business.

B. Minutes – February 27, 2014.

Bill Leonard moved to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Richard Lepore and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – February 2014.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by board members. Chairperson Ragonese asked about the status of the dredging project at the Cove channel. Ms. Bagley reported that the Army Corps notified the town that the project was complete and the contractor would be cleaning up the work site.

D. Letters and Announcements.

Flyers were available at the meeting for distribution and Ms. Bagley gave a brief update on each event:

1. Fishing Derby – April 12.
2. April Vacation – 9/11 Memorial Sports Center – April 14-18.
3. Nature Center April Vacation – April 14-18.

E. Old Business.

1. Spring Fields Update.

Chairperson Ragonese noted that the weather has not been conducive to preparing the fields for spring play. The weather is still cold and the frost is slowly thawing from the ground. Ms. Bagley explained that Physical Services staff are working on the high school priority fields and then will move to the youth sport league fields. Hopefully the weather will get warmer and the fields will dry out. Generally the youth sport fields are ready around the end of April.

F. New Business.

1. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to review the proposed Parks and Recreation budget for fiscal year 2014-15. Ms. Bagley distributed the budget to board members and gave an overview of costs. She explained that salary, benefits and utilities are increasing and most of the other line items are at the 2013-14 budget level. Chairperson Ragonese noted that the water costs are increasing similar to their home

water bills. The salary account has increased due to the increase in the minimum wage and Ms. Bagley's promotion as the Director of the Social and Youth Services Department too. Ms. Bagley explained that this budget has been submitted to the Town Manager and he will come out with his budget at the beginning of April. A public hearing will be held on April 21. The Town Council will review and work on the budget and must adopt the budget by May 15.

2. Request for Use of Cove Park for a Car Show on July 27.

Chairperson Ragonese asked if any board members had questions about this car show event. No questions were raised at this time. Bill Leonard moved to allow the use of Cove Park for the car show on July 27th with a rain date of August 2nd. John Rascius seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Bagley will work with Mr. DiGrazia to make sure all the details are set up for this event.

G. Board Member Comments.

None.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Status of Boating Infrastructure Grant with State.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Council approved the contract with the State on March 17th. She is now putting together the package of information required by the State to go along with the contract documents. Bill Leonard asked Ms. Bagley to look into an ADA kayak ramp. She will talk with the engineer from Ocean and Coastal about this suggestion.

2. Dredging of Cove Channel.

Chairperson Ragonese noted that this topic was discussed under monthly report. Ms. Bagley reported that the Army Corps notified the town that the project was complete and the contractor would be cleaning up the work site.

3. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the Harbormaster report distributed at the meeting with the members. Many of the topics in the report have already been covered in the meeting. Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley about the status of the Harbormaster boat. She reported that Physical Services has done the necessary work to repair the boat for the upcoming season and she is waiting to hear from the Town Manager about funding sources for a new boat. Chairperson Ragonese noted in the report that the Harbormaster is still looking to recruit a deputy. He asked board members to get the word out on this vacancy.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

A motion was made by Richard Lepore and seconded by Tom Mull to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department