

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, September 25, 2014

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, Rich Lepore, Tom Mull and Dan Silbo. Also present was Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation and Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – August 28, 2014.

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Rich Lepore and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – August 2014.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by board members. Chairperson Ragonese noted that the Chamber of Commerce's Cornfest event was successful on September 20. The Source-to-Sea cleanup at Wethersfield Cove on September 26 & 27 went well. There were many volunteers who did a major cleanup of the area.

D. Letters and Announcements.

None.

E. Old Business.

None.

F. New Business.

1. Review of Mill Woods Master Plan.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the Master Plan with board members. They discussed the improvements recommended in the 2002 plan and the accomplishments to date. Ms. Bagley had a copy of the Master Plan and the large scale map identifying the recommendations for park improvements. Chairperson Ragonese pointed out the completed projects. They included the new lighted Little League Field, drainage and field improvements to Fusco Field (lighted softball field), new playscape, renovation of utility building restrooms, new Skate Park, new picnic pavilion, new bocce courts, new Dog Park, beach drainage for swimming area, parking lot improvements by lighted fields, installation of water line for upper fields, purchase of YMCA property and paving park roads and parking lots. Chairperson Ragonese noted that many of these facilities were built with assistance from state grants, local organizations and volunteer committees raising funds. Funds are available from the state to add drainage to the Montanaro Soccer Field. Other future improvements from the plan include a new soccer field, additional parking, a bridge over the brook connecting Fusco Softball Field and Softball Field #2, new docks and pool shelters and dredging the upper pond.

2. Wayfinding Signs.

Ms. Bagley reported that the town received grant funding to install historical signs at significant areas around the Historic District telling a story about the town's history. She provided a map of the sign locations and design and gave the background on the process for this project. The Town Planning Department is working with a committee representing different organizations in town that are compiling the information for each sign. Organizations include Historical Society, Webb Deane Stevens Museum, Tourism Commission, town staff and other individuals knowledgeable about the town's history. The town also hired a consultant to help with this design process. This committee has been working diligently on identifying the key attractions and history to be depicted on these signs. Ms. Bagley is providing the board with this information because some of the signs will be located in town parks. As more information becomes available a future presentation will be scheduled for the Board.

G. Board Member Comments.

Chairperson Ragonese asked for any comments from Board members. Tom Mull asked about the status of the pump out station at Cove boat launch area. Ms. Bagley reported that it has been available on weekends, but boaters have not used it. Mr. Mull thought only one person had used it. Chairperson Ragonese reported on his meeting with the Town Manager and Ms. Bagley on the request from the Commission to acquire a boat for the Harbormaster. He explained the commission's request to the Town Manager and asked the Manager to consider finding a way to fund a boat for use by the Harbormaster. The Town Manager will explore options to acquire a boat.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Cove Docks Project.

Ms. Bagley reported that the engineering firm is still working on the final design and bid specifications. Timetable is to go out to bid in the fall, with installation in late spring for the docks.

2. Harbormaster Report.

Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick gave his report to the commission members. He is doing patrols with the existing boat, but it is difficult because of its condition. He explained that the boat has reached its life expectancy and cannot be repaired any longer. The boat is used to inspect moorings, oversee the Wethersfield Cove and make sure boaters are following state boating regulations. Mr. Forsdick has been in contact with the MDC about a boat for the town. The MDC has offered a boat to the town as a loan. The MDC is putting together an agreement to be reviewed by the town for the use of a boat for the harbormaster's needs. Chairperson Ragonese thought this was a good idea, since we do not have a working boat at this time. Hopefully the town and MDC can come to an agreement on the loan of a boat. Chairperson Ragonese asked Mr. Forsdick if he has recruited a deputy harbormaster. Mr. Forsdick responded that he has not found anyone interested at this time.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

Rich Lepore moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion was seconded by Tom Mull and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department