

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, November 20, 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, Bill Derech, Bill Leonard, Rich Lepore and Dan Silbo. Also present was Mike Hurley, Town Council Liaison and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes – October 23, 2014.

Bill Leonard moved to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan Silbo and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – October 2014.

The Monthly Report was reviewed by board members.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Holidays on Main will be held December 4th from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Main Street. Chairperson Ragonese explained that this event is held annually and is a fun event for families in town.
2. Santa's Pancake Breakfast will be held on December 6th from 8:00 a.m. - noon at the Community Center. Santa will visit with the children and they can have their picture taken with him.

E. Old Business.

1. Repair of Silas Deane Soccer Field.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley for a report on the field condition. She stated that the Physical Services Department has repaired the field. They removed the sand, glass and debris from the bare areas found on the field. The bare areas were filled with appropriate soil and sod was laid down on these areas. They have been watering the sod and it will be playable in the spring. Council liaison, Mike Hurley suggested having the soccer club meet with the Park Board to discuss their future needs and field conditions. Ms. Bagley reported that the soccer club is talking with the Town Manager about the possibility of donating funds for the irrigation of the Silas Deane Soccer Field.

2. Update on Use of High School Pool.

Ms. Bagley explained that swim lessons are held at the high school pool on Saturday mornings. Due to the renovation work at the high school on Saturdays, the public entrance to the pool changes and causes confusion to the parents. Staff has worked through these issues. Due to the nature of some of the construction work on Saturdays, a fire watch is assigned at the building for public safety. For the upcoming winter/spring session of lessons, there will be only one session of swim lessons instead of two due to the renovation work. Board members asked about the renovation of the high school gym. The gym is scheduled to be open for the indoor basketball season.

F. New Business.

1. Solomon Welles House Grant Application for Improvements to House and Grounds.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to explain the grant application. This application is for a Small Town Economic Assistance (STEAP) Grant from the State of Connecticut. The Town Council authorized staff to submit an application at their meeting on Monday, November 17, 2014. The project includes drainage and paving improvements to the parking lot, exterior house painting and trim & clapboard repair, foundation repairs and electrical improvements to the site. The grant amount requested is \$500,000.

2. Mill Woods Park Paving.

Ms. Bagley reported that all the paved parking lots and park roads have been newly paved. The Engineering Department will be developing and painting a traffic pattern in the pool parking lot. Board members suggested having traffic bear right as you enter the pool parking lot and continue around the lot and back out past the bathhouse. Traffic should be one way. Ms. Bagley will give this information to the Engineering Department.

3. Webb Tennis Courts.

Work will start shortly on the construction of the new courts. Ms. Bagley reported that the Connecticut section of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) gave a grant to the Town of \$2,000 towards the construction of the Webb tennis courts. Originally the national USTA gave the town a grant of \$15,000 and the New England region gave \$3,000. Total grant funds received for the project are \$20,000. Total cost of the project is approximately \$133,000.

G. Board Member Comments.

1. December Meeting.

Board members decided to hold a regular meeting at the Town Hall for their meeting on December 18. Agenda item will be the Capital Improvement Plan for the 2015-2016 budget.

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 for the docks.

2. Harbormaster Report.

Ms. Bagley distributed Harbormaster Charlie Forsdick's report. Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the report with members. They discussed the vacancy for the assistant harbormaster position and the agreement with the MDC for the use of a surplus boat for the 2015 boating season.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

Bill Leonard moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Motion was seconded by Rich Lepore and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director
Parks & Recreation Department