

Wethersfield Advisory Parks and Recreation Board
Harbor Management Commission
Minutes - Thursday, September 24, 2015

The meeting was held at Town Hall and called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 6:30 p.m. Members present were Michael Bisi, Bill Derech, Richard Lepore, Tom Mull, Tom Ragonese, John Rascius and Dan Silbo. Also present were Mike Hurley, Council Liaison, Charlie Forsdick, Harbormaster and Kathy Bagley, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Chairperson Ragonese welcomed new member Michael Bisi to the Advisory Parks and Recreation Board/Harbor Management Commission.

A. Public Comments.

Charlie Forsdick talked about the cove launching fees. He questioned why the town started charging fees for launching boats at the Cove. Chairperson Ragonese noted that today the fees are used for park maintenance and operation costs of the launch area. Ms. Bagley said the fees were in place when she started working with the department. She will ask staff if they have information on when the fees started and why. Mr. Forsdick felt that everyone should pay to use the Cove park area including fisherman. Chairperson Ragonese said that charging fisherman or people who enter the park was not going to work. He explained that the Cove fees are on the agenda and board members could have further discussion.

B. Minutes – August 27, 2015.

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Richard Lepore and approved unanimously.

C. Monthly Report – August 2015.

Board members reviewed the monthly report. Members discussed the new docks at the Cove that have replaced the old wooden docks. Many of the members had a chance to see the new docks and were pleased with them.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Board Member List.

Board members reviewed the membership list and provided updated information.

E. Old Business.

1. Cove Boat Launching Fees.

Chairperson Ragonese discussed the Cove fees with board members. Ms. Bagley distributed a report on the current fees with staff recommendations for future fees. She reviewed the report with board members and provided information on boating traffic and revenue to date for the Cove Park boat launching facility. Board members held a lengthy discussion on the fees and agreed that the jet skis should be included in the power boat category. Also, canoes and kayaks should not be charged a fee. The fees recommended are:

- a. No change to power boat fees, but jet skis pay same fee as power boats.
- b. No fee for canoes and kayaks.
- c. Season launch fee for non-residents for power boats and jet skis be reduced from \$200 to \$150.
- d. Mooring fees – eliminate fee packages for purchasing town mooring or mooring space and tender cleat (dock ring). Allow boaters to pick what services they need.
- e. Change the resident fee for tender cleat (dock ring) from \$70 to \$75.

Chairperson Ragonese suggested reviewing all this information over the next month and voting on fees at the October meeting. Board members agreed with this suggestion.

F. New Business.

1. Field Status Update.

Ms. Bagley reported that fields are being utilized for fall sports in town. The main soccer field at Silas Deane Middle School is off line. Physical Services has installed an irrigation system and has regraded the field and growing grass on it.

Mr. Rascius asked about bleachers for the High School baseball field. Ms. Bagley explained that it is in the department's 10 year capital improvement plan, but has not been a priority, especially with all the renovation work going on at the High School.

G. Board Member Comments.

Board members discussed the use of Standish Park for different activities. They were pleased to see all the different groups using the park in the fall. The facilities looked good and everyone was enjoying the park.

H. Harbor Management Commission.

1. Harbormaster Report.

Chairperson Ragonese reviewed the Harbormaster report with members. Mr. Forsdick provided a summary of the work of the last month. He explained that he still does not have a working boat and it is making it difficult to patrol the Cove for speeding boats/jet skis or do closing procedures at the end of the boating season. Ms. Bagley is working on getting the boat motor fixed. She will make arrangements for a boat to help with the closing procedures for boat season.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that an individual is interested in the deputy harbormaster position. He is not a town resident, but previous efforts have been unsuccessful to find anyone for this position.

Chairperson Ragonese suggested the commission members interview him at the next meeting. He asked Ms. Bagley to send commission members the individual's resume so they could review it before the meeting. Commission members agreed to this plan.

I. Motion to Adjourn.

Richard Lepore moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion was seconded by Tom Mull and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director