

**TOWN OF STONINGTON
COMMITTEE MEETING
MYSTIC RIVER BOATHOUSE PARK IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes**

Stonington Police Department Meeting Room
173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379
Monday, March 6th, 2023
6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm.

Present were: Chairman Nick Kepple, Mike Crowley, Thomas Switz, Farouk Rajab, Steve Planchon, Jim Kelley, Susan Cullen, and Danielle Chesebrough.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Seating of Alternates (if necessary)

4. Comments from the Public

None

5. Approval of Minutes for the MRPBIC Meeting of February 7th, 2022

The only change requested for the minutes was the addition of David Lee's last name. Chairman Kepple motioned to accept the meeting minutes. Seconded by Mike Crowley. All in favor motion approved.

6. Correspondence

Chairman Kepple wrote a letter lending his support for the Circus Lot project. It was not written as a support from the entire committee, but as a chairman of a committee for a similar project.

7. Old Business

- **Discussion- Master and Site Plan Process**
- **Discussion- Stonington Community Rowing Center, including Boathouse, update**

There has been success with the Living Shoreline in regards to softening the shoreline. The Shellfish commission has been helpful with recommendations about the vegetation and shellfish cohabitation that is currently thriving in the water of the area. There is currently a muscle population Chad Frost is hopeful to harvest the seed muscles from to use for the project. The seed muscles would help avoiding the import of more muscles to the area that could potentially bring diseases to the current population. Chad Frost is coordinating all the different moving parts of the applications. The timeline for submitting is in a couple weeks. The next planning and zoning meeting is at the end of the month. That meeting will allow for the scheduling of meeting with the other committees the project will have to go before as well as a public meeting about the project. Steve Planchon inquired about a master list of applications that would outline exactly how many different applications need to be submitted. At this time there is not one. Chad Frost updated that the site grading has been worked out and a majority of the site will remain

as expected, but the parking lot will have a higher grading in the corner to help with water drainage. All consultants will continue finalizing construction plans while waiting for application approvals and will hopefully be able to offer the project as one bid as opposed to breaking it up. Danielle Chesbrough shared that phasing the project seemed like it would be ineffective which is a good reason to have it be one bid.

February 21st Chad Frost completed an updated cost estimate as discussed in the previous committee meeting. The summary of which is that costs have gone up as expected. Susan Cullen shared that over the past month herself, Danielle Chesebrough, and Debbie Downie have been putting together an application requesting more funding from ECON and tracking the Living Shoreline grant.

Danielle Chesebrough shared that private independent fundraising would be difficult but not impossible and inquired about creating a subcommittee specifically for that purpose. Susan Cullen shared that she has a growing list she has been working on with the committees' fundraising ideas. It contains people and organizations to reach out to and who may be interested in committing to fill in smaller items. Danielle also took time to thank Susan, Debbie, and Chad for their hard work in the last month. Chairman Kepple expanded that fleshing out what will be going on with the park in the next year may open doors, and that some people may just need an idea of what the park could be to the community to donate. Farouk Rajab suggested having a project donation progress board added to the site to inform the community on what the plan is, and to show the community the status of the fundraising effort. It would be much like the signage that was by the Stonington Police Department for the fundraising of the new memorial in the same location. Farouk also brought up partnering with the Seaport for support on the project which could maybe open donation doors. Steve Planchon brought up contacting local contractors who have been interested in donating their labor to the project.

8. New Business

- **Update- Reminder to request reappointment if term is up**
- **Update- Staff**

Members discussed cancelling the meeting for April while waiting for the applications to be approved. Susan Cullen shared she would be absent for the next meeting if it occurred but that she would send an informational packet.

Mike O'Neill is currently the last member needing reappointment, but was unable to make the March meeting.

Keith Brynes has accepted a position elsewhere leaving his position open for applications. The hope is it will be filled soon, and Susan Cullen plans to update whoever is hired in his place of the project.

9. Comments from the Public

None

10. Comments from the Committee and Board of Selectmen

The board requested some additional information about the Circus Lot project which Susan Cullen was able to provide. The Circus Lot concept is to remove the invasive species in the area and create a playing field, walking path, kayak launch, and fishing spots for the public. The public shared their concern that

most of the playgrounds in that area that were once open for the public are now closed as they are school property, so this project would allow for an open playground for the community to enjoy.

11. Adjourn

Mike Crowley motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Farouk Rajab. All in favor motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Stout, Recording Secretary