

Dear Boathouse members,

We are asking for your help in obtaining letters of support for the upcoming grant application.

Below is a list of possible *letters of support* candidates. If anyone can take the lead on reaching out to any organization below, please email me and I'll put you down as the contact point.

We would appreciate any assistance possible with this effort. In addition, if you have new names to add to the list that would be wonderful. Please see below for what you can share with those you reach out to seeking a letter.

Best,

Nick Kepple, Chair

TOWN AGENCIES- *First Selectman will contact*

Waterfront Commission
Recreation Commission
Shellfish Commission
Conservation Commission
Economic Development Commission
Architectural Design Review Board
Plan of Conservation and Development
Implementation Commission
Planning and Zoning Commission
Board of Education
Police Commission / Dept.
Mystic River Harbor Commission
Chamber of Commerce
Climate Change Task Force
Stormwater Task Force
Facilities Committee

BUSINESSES

The Mystic Aquarium
Mystic Seaport Museum
Oyster Co-op
Mystic Cemetery
Old Mystic Village
Kayak and small boat rental businesses along the river
Mystic and Eastern CT Chambers of Commerce
Stoneridge & Masonicare
Area hotels

NON-PROFITS-

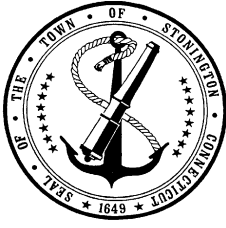
The Williams Mystic Program
CUSH, Inc.
Friends of Boathouse Park
SECT Cultural Coalition
Indian-Colonial Research Org.
Mystic River Historical Association
Stonington Historical Society
Groton Open Space Association
Garden Clubs (Mystic and Stonington and Groton)
Coogan Farm
Denison Society
Stonington Land Trust
Avalonia Land Trust
Trust for Public Land
YMCA

Town and State *First Selectman will contact*

Town of Groton
Rep. Kate Rotella
Sen. Heather Sommers

OTHER

Council of Governments- Danielle C.
Individual neighbors (residential and business)
Biking Task Force
Rowing groups
Mystic Fire District
International Rowing Association



TOWN OF STONINGTON
OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN
DANIELLE A. CHESEBROUGH

152 Elm Street □ Stonington, Connecticut 06378
(860) 535-5050 □ Fax (860) 535-1046

Greetings,

Thank you for considering writing a letter of support for the Mystic River Boathouse Park brownfields grant applications. The Town of Stonington is applying for funds to help meet the costs of environmental remediation for the site at 123 Greenmanville Avenue across from the former Rossie Velvet Mill. Letters of support are essential in conveying the range of positive impacts of the project. We would appreciate receiving your letter by the end of May 2020.

The town has developed a Park Master Plan, which includes the following elements: a lawn area for passive recreation; a public boat ramp and dock, along with a dedicated crew dock; public boardwalk with a history component using interpretive signage and markers; coastal rehabilitation, including living shoreline and marsh enhancement; new landscaping, including native pollinator habitats, and on-site parking.

As part of this project, there will be separate private fundraising efforts to build a new Community Rowing Center, as well as plans for the relocation and restoration of the historic Lovelace House, which will be attached to the Rowing Center building. The project contributes to our state-wide open space objectives, enhances community health by providing for increased passive recreation and connectivity, as well as providing opportunities for educational enhancement for our residents and visitors. It will also dramatically improve the landscape on our busiest gateway corridor.

The project is a public-private partnership in planning, design, and funding. Funds have been and will continue to come from a diverse mix of sources demonstrating the broad support across the community for this significant new amenity. At this stage a key source of funding is Brownfield grants, from both the State and Federal levels.

If you are able to write a letter of support, we will use it in our funding request both to the State of CT DECD Brownfield grant applications, as well as the EPA Region 1 Brownfields program.

We would also request that the letters indicate the importance of the project to the broader community from your unique point of view. For example, you may wish to note any of the following:

- increased public access to the water for pedestrians, as well as users of boats and vessels.
- positive influence on the tourist and recreational industry that drives our local economy;
- support of rowing program in the public-school and new community rowing programs;
- enhance environmental education opportunities by demonstration of a living shoreline as a coastal resilience tool; as well as the neighborhood manufacturing history that made this piece of land possible;
- enhance property values by creating a significant new community benefit.

Thank you very much. Be safe and in good health,

Danielle A. Chesebrough, First Selectman

The following is a suggested format for your letter:

YOUR LETTERHEAD

DATE

Ms. Danielle Chesebrough, First Selectman
Town of Stonington
152 Elm Street
Stonington, CT 06378

RE: Town of Stonington Brownfields Grant Application

Dear Ms. Chesebrough:

This letter is in support of the Town of Stonington's application for a Brownfield Grant to be used for remediation costs at the Mystic River Boathouse Park located at 123 Greenvanville Avenue, Mystic, CT. The funds would be used for remediation and redevelopment of the site into a park, which would clear an existing brownfield site, while also providing improved water access to the public.

[INSERT SPECIFIC PERSONAL STATEMENT]

Once completed, this project is certain to enhance the area, providing residents and visitors with public waterfront access to the Mystic River, while offering additional economic, tourism, educational and coastal resiliency benefits to the area.

Best,