

**Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
Cisco Webex Virtual Meeting
Monday, April 5, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

The Stonington Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee held a special virtual meeting on this date, Monday, April 5, 2021 via Cisco Webex meeting platform.

Present were Mike O'Neill, Vice Chairman, Tim O'Brien, Mike Crowley, Tom Switz, Breck Perkins, Steve Planchon, Farouk Rajab, Jim Kelley, Katherine Burchenal, Rick Broberg, Deb Downie, Stonington Board of Selectwomen liaison and Sandy Tissièrè, Recording Secretary; as well as Susan Cullen, Stonington Director of Economic and Community Development; Chad Frost, Principal, Kent + Frost and Chris Gasiorek, Vice President of Watercraft Preservation and Programs, Mystic Seaport Museum and one unidentified caller.
Members Absent: Nick Kepple, Chairman

1. **Call to order**

Vice Chairman Mike O'Neill called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The group joined together for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Seating of Alternates**

No alternates were seated.

4. **Comments from the Public**

There were not any public comments.

5. **Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the March 1, 2021 special meeting were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Mike O'Neil and seconded by Tom Switz to approve the minutes from March 1, 2021 as presented.
The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

6. **Correspondence**

There wasn't any correspondence presented.

7. **Old Business**

• **Discussion – Brownfield Grant application update**

Susan Cullen gave an update saying the Brownfield Grant application has been submitted to the State of Connecticut before deadline. Susan Cullen told the group there was so much information and attachments to the grant it took six different uploads. Susan Cullen said there upwards of 40 letters of support which was quite impressive and something she hadn't seen before. Susan Cullen spoke of the many people who provided their expertise in the creation of the grant, calling out Debbie Downie for all the extra work that she put in behind the scenes. Susan Cullen said they should know something by June.

Mike O'Neill congratulated Susan Cullen on the submission and asked her if there was any way to know how many other grants were submitted? Susan Cullen said there wasn't any way to know this as there are many applicant with different eligibilities and qualifications. Susan Cullen said there would be an answer by early summer if the grant makes it to the next step.

Mike O'Neill asked Susan Cullen if there were other grants being considered at this time? Susan Cullen answered there are other grants being looked at and are they are following up on another small grant and will continue to pursue it.

Mike O'Neill asked Chad Frost about living shoreline grants he had found and sent to Susan Cullen and Debbie Downie. Chad Frost answered he had forwarded the information to Susan Cullen. Chad Frost added with COVID monies becoming available there may be other sustainability grants geared toward the living shoreline available.

**Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
Cisco Webex Virtual Meeting
Monday, April 5, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

- Discussion - Stonington Community Center Update

Mike O'Neill said the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Stonington and the Stonington Community Rowing Center has been completed and a copy was sent with the Brownfield grant. Mike O'Neill said the biggest change to the park was the inclusion of the Loveland house and how to integrate it into the boathouse project.

Mike O'Neill said the basis of the agreement is the town and the Friends of Stonington Crew will share the responsibilities of the house. The town will pick up the early work of doing the remediation in the house, moving the house and providing the foundation and doing the site related work. The Friends of Stonington Crew will pick up with the adaptive reuse design work for the house.

8. New Business

Mike O'Neill referred to Breck Perkins' recommendation of the Town creating a timeline of next steps for the project if the Brownfield grant makes it to the next round of consideration. Mike O'Neill spoke of perhaps the beginning of the permitting process and asked Susan Cullen if there was any permits that could be started. Susan Cullen answered it would be a good idea to start looking at which permitting processes could be started if the Brownfield grant made it to the interview process.

Breck Perkins spoke of the Mystic Seaport Hotel that Chad Frost is working on that will be sharing parking with the park and asked wasn't it critical that both projects have a common timeline to prevent grading issues. Breck Perkins continued saying, through an Internet search, he found private philanthropies that are providing grants for living shorelines.

Mike O'Neill asked Susan Cullen, as the amount being applied for was reduced in the grant, had she thought about how the project would develop if the grant money was awarded? Susan Cullen said, yes, there has been because when developing the budget for the grant, they had to put things in the critical path of what had to happen in what order. The grant budget was focused on what was needed to be done to move the park forward and, at the same time, to build a parallel timeline of other things that need to be done.

Mike Crowley asked if items for the park have to be put out to bid. Susan Cullen answered all the work will have to be done on an open and transparent bid basis. Mike Crowley said he thinks how the bid process will work should be ready when there is money available. Debbie Downie answered this is one of things that will be part of the process to move the project forward.

Breck Perkins asked Debbie Downie if there were documents to bid with? Debbie Downie answered that they have to wait to see what the state would require but the town does have bid documents to work with that could be completed with the help of the committee. Susan Cullen said there are things that can be done now but the state will have requirements that need to be met.

Mike Crowley asked about the parking issues. Susan Cullen said parking is something that needs to be taken care of but the grant application needed to be worked on but it has not been forgotten about. Chad Frost spoke of the Mystic Seaport hotel saying the seven parking spaces would be shared between the hotel and the park. There had been previous discussions regarding parking for the park be available in the Mystic Seaport Museum parking lot. Breck Perkins asked about the status of the discussion of sharing parking with the Little League Field. Chad Frost said there was discussion between him and Steve White, retired President of the Mystic Seaport Museum, regarding this option and they had concurred it would probably be more feasible to pursue parking options with the Mystic Seaport Museum.

Rick Broberg asked if there was a Plan B, in case we don't get the Brownfield Grant. Susan Cullen answered the Brownfield Grant application was a thorough document with all the supporting information and it should be viable enough for consideration. Chad Frost added this will be a very competitive round, it has been a long time since remediation funds were available because of the bond delay, however this is exactly the money that this project is meant for so even if we are unsuccessful this time, you should turn around and reapply as soon as these funds are made available a second time around; that would be a Plan B as this is what those funds are for and we can find other smaller grants in the meantime.

9. Comments from the Public

There weren't any public comments.

10. Comments from the Committee

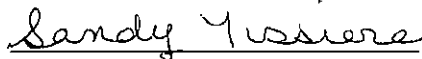
There weren't any committee comments.

Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
Cisco Webex Virtual Meeting
Monday, April 5, 2021
6:00 p.m.

11. Adjourn

A motion was made by Mike Crowley and Farouk Rajab to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m.
The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandy Tissiere
Recording Secretary