

**Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Stonington Police Department
Monday, June 7, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

The Stonington Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee held a regular meeting on this date, Monday, June 7, 2021 at the Stonington Police Department.

Present were Nick Kepple, Chairman; Mike O'Neill, Vice Chairman; Mike Crowley, Tom Switz, Breck Perkins, Farouk Rajab, Jim Kelley, and Sandy Tissiere, Recording Secretary; as well as Chad Frost, Principal, Kent + Frost and Fran Hoffman
Members Absent: Tim O'Brien, Steve Planchon, Katherine Burchenal, Debbie Downie, Stonington Board of Selectwomen liaison and Rick Broberg

1. **Call to order**

Chairman Nick Kepple called the meeting to order at 6:00 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**

No public comments.

5. **Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the May 3, 2021 special meeting were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Tom Switz and seconded by Mike Crowley to approve the minutes from May 3, 2021 as submitted.

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Chairman Kepple welcomed everyone back to the in-person meeting.

6. **Correspondence**

This isn't any correspondence presented.

7. **Old Business**

• **Discussion - Stonington Community Rowing Center Update**

Mike O'Neill said the Stonington Community Rowing Center is waiting to hear about the status of the Brownfield Grant to proceed with their plans. There is a steering committee that has a campaign put together to be able to move forward once funding is determined.

Farouk Rajab read an email from Debbie Downie. Regarding the status of the Brownfield Grant application, the email read the state had reached out to the town with questions regarding the exact amounts budgeted in the different "pots" of money. Susan Cullen, Stonington Director of Planning and Economic Development, and Danielle Chesebrough, First Selectman, told Debbie they felt they answered the questions well and indicated this was good sign as the questions showed the state has a level of interest in the project.

The email continued saying there is a visit from the Connecticut Shellfish Restoration Plan Working Group. The purpose of this visit is to collect descriptive, physical, biological and logistical characteristics of the areas that will help inform decision-making for restoration. They will be visiting the Mystic River Boathouse Park on June 18, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Any member of the MRPBIC is welcome to join and to let Debbie know if they are interested in attending.

This visit is a working meeting and the committee concurred it would be good to have someone from the committee attend to show appreciation to this group for their interest

Chairman Kepple discussed the Brownfield grant application funding request of \$700,000.00 saying this amount is lower than originally anticipated as the requested amount had to be reduced to make the grant more competitive. The items cut was the boardwalk and other park elements. There is still \$500,000.00 in the project budget that could be used for some of these items.

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The committee discussed different ways to fund the items not covered under the remediation grant such as private grants, public funding and loans. The committee discussed the citizens of the town should make the decision whether the master plan should be altered to fit within the available funding once it is determined.

Permitting was discussed. Chad Frost suggested permitting be submitted for all the docks and the boardwalk so if there isn't funding available for the boardwalk, the permit would be available when there is funding.

Parking was discussed. The committee discussed all the progress going on at the Mystic Seaport Museum and possibilities for parking in their parking lots. Chairman Kepple suggested talking to other towns with boathouse parks to see how they solved their parking challenges. Parking at the Little League Field was discussed. Chad Frost recalled Jason Vincent had met with them and they would agree to share their parking lot if the MRBPIC would agree to pave the lot. Chad Frost spoke of a meeting that was held recently to discuss more structured parking for visitors to Mystic.

Chairman Kepple mentioned the renaming of the park due to the request of the fire district voicing concern over the confusion of the other Mystic River Park in downtown Mystic. The committee discussed whether the park name should be changed or not. Chairman Kepple said this will be taken up for future discussion.

8. New Business

Fran Hoffman said it used to be the Brownfields grant that were part of the Federal or State, the grant provided reconstruction as fundable. Fran Hoffman continued saying the glass shards could be a reason for the need for the boardwalk. Chad Frost said the boardwalk was presented as part of the cap in the remediation plan but was taken out of the grant application to make it more competitive. Nick Kepple said there could be additional funding available in a second round of funding in the future that could be applied for as well.

9. Comments from the Public

No public comments.

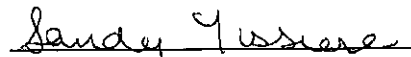
10. Comments from the Committee

Breck Perkins opined he thought two things that should be on the agenda every month should be schedule and project. Breck Perkins said he could provide a rough schedule for next month as he has already started to pull all this information together. Chairman Kepple responded it is his understanding some of the project funding will go to a project manager to assist with the scheduling and budgeting. It was discussed until there is a funding determined, a schedule or budget can't be determined. The committee discussed once funding is determined then it can be decided what the scope of the park will be based on what the taxpayers want.

11. Adjourn

A motion was made by Mike Crowley and seconded by Breck Perkins to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m.
The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandy Tissiere
Recording Secretary