

**Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Cisco Webex Virtual Meeting
Monday, October 5, 2020
6:00 p.m.**

The Stonington Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee held a special virtual meeting on this date, Monday, October 5, 2020 via Cisco Webex meeting platform.

Present were Nick Kepple, Chairman; Breck Perkins, Tim O'Brien, Mike Crowley, Tom Switz, Steve White, Farouk Rajab, Jim Kelley, Kathryn Burchenal, Deb Downie, Stonington Board of Selectwomen liaison and Sandy Tissiere, Recording Secretary; as well as Chad Frost, Principal, Kent + Frost; Susan Cullen, Stonington Director of Economic and Community Development; Fran Hoffman and a member of the public

Members Absent: Rick Broberg

Late arrivals: Steve Planchon 6:08 p.m. and Mike O'Neill, Vice Chairman, 6:42 p.m.

1. **Call to order**

Chairman Nick Kepple called the meeting the order at 6:04 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The group joined together for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Seating of Alternates**

A motion was made by Farouk Rajab and seconded by Steve White to seat Jim Kelley and Katherine Burchenal as alternates. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

4. **Comments from the Public**

There were not any public comments.

5. **Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the July 6, 2020 Regular meeting were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Farouk Rajab and seconded by Jim Kelley to approve the minutes of July 6, 2020 Regular meeting 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**
- **Project Budget Update**

Nick Kepple invited Susan Cullen to give a proposed budget update of the project. Susan Cullen reported there is around \$50,000.00 remaining in the project budget. Susan Cullen told the committee the submerged aquatic vegetation survey bill for \$3,500.00 has been submitted for payment as well as the remedial action plan that has been completed but not submitted to the state has been paid. Susan Cullen said there had been a meeting of herself, Nick Kepple and Deb Downie to discuss the use of the remaining funds where they made a list of how to proceed with the assessment piece of the grant without going over into the remediation side of grant. Susan Cullen said the goal is to try and close out the assessment grant and go after the remediation funds. Susan Cullen reported the pre-application grant has been submitted for the municipal Brownfield Grant program with the State of Connecticut though the Department of Community Economic Development for the remediation grant.

Susan Cullen told the group the application for the remediation grant was just released and it is in a different format then the one that has been being worked on from the previous year. It is the same substance wise but arranged differently. Susan Cullen spoke of additional information that may update the ranking of the grant such as the health benefits of the park and the expertise of the people involved in the creation of the grant.

Nick Kepple asked Susan Cullen the timeline of submission for the grant. Susan Cullen answered the date of submission hasn't been released as the amount of funding hasn't been released yet. Nick Kepple commended Fran Hoffman and John Thornell

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for the many letters of support they were able to procure. Fran Hoffman recognized Kathryn Burchenal as well as being part of procurement as well.

Fran Hoffman asked the question if anyone had applied for a grant from the EPA regional grant. Deb Downie said they will take a look at it.

- Discussion – Update from Friends of Stonington Crew

Chairman Kepple asked for an update from the Friends of Stonington. Breck Perkins reported on a blog post from John Thorneil about the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center in the continuation of the greenway from the land preserve on either side of the river which he put out to the Stonington Community Forum and other areas. Mike O'Neill said a park Facebook page created by the Friends of Stonington Crew will be updated to reflect current information relating to the project.

8. New Business

- Chad Frost
 - Wetland Vegetation/SAV survey plan
 - NDDB Request (signed)
 - NDDB Request drawings (high resolution)
 - NDDB Determination from the State

Chad Frost gave an update saying the submerged vegetation study had been done and there were good results. There wasn't anything growing there that will hold up the project. The survey plan demonstrates the coastal vegetation that is flagged with all the plants that are out there. The plan is very detailed information that will assist with the project going forward. Chad Frost said they have submitted the study to the National Diversity Data Base and received the determination from them there wouldn't be any adverse impacts.

Mike Crowley asked how much permitting is there to do. Susan Cullen answered there is a fair amount of permitting to be done and, in this round, we will bring things up to right before permitting. The plans will be brought up to a percentage in terms of their development and the information to the point where permitting can be started. There are eighteen permits for this project to be completed before the project is shovel ready; we aren't going to get to that point by December 31st.

Mike Crowley asked about the traffic and parking studies that needs to be done. Susan Cullen said this issue hasn't been forgotten about, it is an on-going parallel discussion. Steve White offered to share the traffic studies already done for the Mystic Seaport Museum projects.

Mike O'Neill suggested when the Brownfield grant proposal is submitted there be a press release. Chairman Kepple said that would be good idea to let the community know of the progress of the park.

- Town's proposed expenditures – Susan Cullen
Discussed under Old Business,

9. Comments from the Public

No public comments.

10. Comments from the Committee

Deb Downie said she will continue to work with Susan Cullen, and with the committee's agreement, to have Chad Frost move forward on the permitting work so we can spend all the money or as much as possible before it expires and continue to move the project along so, hopefully, when we get the remediation grant, we will be closer to permit. Deb Downie said she also commended the people who worked on getting all the letters of support and thinks it is a great idea to include PR information with the grant. Tom Switz asked for the spreadsheet of the required permits. Chad Frost said he will get it to the committee. Brett Perkins asked for an updated project schedule as well. Chad Frost said he would provide that as well. Brett Perkins asked as we were, initially, going to demolish the buildings, we had to do an assessment with regards to toxicity of the existing buildings with regards to PCB's, lead and asbestos;

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now that we are going to keep the building, should there be another assessment to know what the level of work that is to be done. Chad Frost said the assessment had been done for the house in terms of demolition but not for now that the house is being kept. Breck Perkins said he felt an assessment might be useful in the moving of the building.

Fran Hoffman commented she thinks the committee should be prepared for educating the public what the risk factors are to people as they see remediation grants, the question will be what are they cleaning up and what is the danger to me. I think we make sure we are set and comfortable with providing people with information about what this is about. Chairman Kepple said that through the multiple community meetings, the public has been educated to the reason of the need for remediation. Chad Frost agreed but said if there is a press release regarding the project the information be provided as to why there is remediation needed.

11. Adjourn

A motion was made by Jim Kelley and seconded by Mike Crowley to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m.
The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandy Tissiere
Recording Secretary