

**Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Stonington Police Department, Pawcatuck, CT
Monday, October 7, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

The Stonington Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee held a regular meeting on this date, Monday, October 7, 2019 at the Stonington Police Department at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Rob Simmons, Chairman; Mike O'Neill, Vice Chairman; Tom Switz, Mike Crowley, Steve White, Breck Perkins, Steve Planchon, Kathryn Burchenal and Sandy Tissiere, Recording Secretary; as well Jason Vincent, Stonington Director of Planning; Chad Frost, Principal, Kent + Frost; Ron Goodin, LEED AP, BD+C and Nicholas Fucci, Crosskey Architects and interested citizens

Members absent were Tim O'Brien, Farouk Rajab, Nick Kepple and Jim Kelley

1. **Call to order**

Chairman Rob Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Herb Holmstedt led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Comments from the Public**

There weren't any public comments.

4. **Approval of minutes**

A motion was made by Mike Crowley and seconded by Mike O'Neill to approve the minutes of the special meeting on September 9, 2019 as presented.

Discussion: Chairman Simmons noted to Steve White, the September 9th minutes included a picture of the historical display of the park property created by the Mystic Seaport (located in the Rossie Building) that is very impressive. Chairman Simmons suggested those present to take an opportunity to visit the display.

The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

5. **Correspondence**

There were two items of correspondence presented. The first was a letter of acceptance to Alan Strunk from First Selectman Rob Simmons acknowledging Mr. Strunk's resignation of his alternate position with the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee. Chairman Simmons encouraged the committee to reach out to people they know to recommend someone to fill this position. The Board of Selectman would decide the final appointment.

The second piece of correspondence was an email from Kevin Blacker regarding a phone call from Gordon Ulmer who would like to donate rocks to the Mystic River Boathouse Park project to be used as reinforcement to the shoreline.

6. **Old Business**

• **Discussion – Memorandum of Agreement with SHPO**

Mike O'Neill reported there has been progress made in the negotiations with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Mr. O'Neill reminded the committee that the Stonington Community Rowing Center has hired Crosskey Architects to assist in these negotiations. Mr. O'Neill introduced Ron Goodin of Crosskey Architects, to give an update. Ron Goodin introduced himself and shared with the committee his experience with adaptive use of historic properties and familiarity of SHPO requirements. Mr. Goodin explained the on-going process of the meetings between the Stonington Community Rowing Center, Crosskey Architects and SHPO. Mr. Goodin spoke of how to keep an original historic building and connect a new structure by creating a hyphen-room to adjoin the two structures. The group meetings started with the original Option 6 the MRBPIC had approved to move forward, went to options 6a and 7 and finally agreed on an option 8. Option 8 would keep the original house structure and include a hyphen-room to connect the house to a two-story barn-like structure that would house the rowing center.

The committee discussed the cost difference between option 6 and option 8; Mike O'Neill explained the process of the determining the cost is in progress. The question "Does the height of the two-story addition meet the height requirements of the property?" was asked. Jason Vincent replied it does. Mike O'Neill said the two-story addition meets the needs of a community

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rowing center. Mr. Goodin said that SHPO has given verbal agreement to sign the MOU with Stonington if Option 8 is approved by the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee. The committee discussed how, if Option 8 is approved, Mr. Frost will have to redesign the master plan for the park. The committee discussed the community presentation of the new master park plan.

A motion was made by Rob Simmons and seconded by Breck Perkins to approve Option 8 as described in the distributed sheet in an effort to achieve an agreement with SHPO to move this project forward.

Discussion: The committee discussed the distributed Option 8 and the flexibility and viability of the offered design. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

- Discussion – Architectural Consultant for Boathouse
Discussed under item #6. Old Business - Discussion – Memorandum of Agreement with SHPO
- Discussion – Future Chairman
Discussed at the September 9, 2019 special meeting.

7. New Business

- Discussion – Replacement of Alan Strunk as an alternate
Chairman Simmons said the Stonington Board of Selectman will make the appointment but urged the committee to consider making recommendations.
- Discussion – 2020 Mystic River Implementation Committee Meeting Schedule
Chairman Simmons said it was time to approve the 2020 meeting schedule. Mike Crowley suggested the meeting time be set for 6:00 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. and the committee concurred.
A motion was made by Steve White and seconded by Mike Crowley to approve the 2020 Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee meeting schedule, keeping it at the first Monday of the month with the change of the meeting time to 6:00 p.m.
The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

8. Comments from the Public

There weren't any public comments.


9. Comments from the Committee

Mike Crowley expressed his happiness the project is moving forward. Breck Perkins asked Chad Frost how long it would take to revise the park master plan. Mr. Frost answered he could have new master plan incorporating the new building by the next meeting. Mr. Frost continued saying the committee would then review it to discuss revisions and the next step would be to present everything to the community.

10. Adjourn

As there was no further business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Sandy Tisiere
Recording Secretary