

**Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Cisco Webex Virtual Meeting
Monday, November 2, 2020
6:00 p.m.**

The Stonington Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee held a regular virtual meeting on this date, Monday, November 2, 2020 via Cisco Webex meeting platform.

Present were Nick Kepple, Chairman; Mike O'Neill, Vice Chairman, Breck Perkins, Tim O'Brien, Mike Crowley, Tom Switz, Steve White, Steve Planchon, Farouk Rajab, Jim Kelley, Deb Downie, Stonington Board of Selectwomen liaison and Sandy Tisiere, Recording Secretary; as well as Chad Frost, Principal, Kent + Frost; Susan Cullen, Stonington Director of Economic and Community Development; Chris Gasiorek, Vice President of Watercraft Preservation and Programs and two unidentified call-in participants

Members Absent: Rick Broberg and Kathryn Burchenal

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**

No alternates were seated.

4. **Comments from the Public**

There were not any public comments.

5. **Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the October 5, 2020 Regular meeting were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Mike O'Neill and seconded by Farouk Rajab to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2020 Regular meeting as presented.

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

6. **Correspondence**

Sue Cullen reported a notice of pre-approval for application of the Brownfield Grant has been received. Sue Cullen said there had been a one-page summary sent to the State of Connecticut and a letter of reply was authorization to move forward with the grant application.

7. **Old Business**

• **Discussion – Brownfield Grant application update**

Chairman Kepple said he looked at the State of Connecticut bond commission website and there has been a meeting canceled so it may be awhile before any grant funding will be approved. The application process for the Brownfield Grant won't be open until the bonding commission approves additional funding. Susan Cullen told Chairman Kepple he was right; however, they have not stopped going forward with completing the grant application. Susan Cullen continued saying the new application has been released and it is different from the previous one they had been completing. Susan Cullen said she the intern in her office has transferred the information from the previous application to the new one and the new application is about 75% done. Susan Cullen continued saying the new application will be completed and ready for submission when the new funding is released.

Chairman Kepple asked Susan Cullen if the changes in the new application were in the difference of emphasis in the areas of interest or were the changes in the way the application is formatted. Susan Cullen answered there were differences of emphasis but asked Deb Downie to provide further explanation. Deb Downie told the committee there are a lot of formatting changes but also added was more emphasis on the remedial work and how the remedial options were looked at and there are other items added regarding existing infrastructure.

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- Project Budget Update

Chad Frost said the remaining funds from the current grant will be used for a change order to do coastal remediation work. Chad Frost said his engineer has reached out to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection agency and has received a lot of good feedback. Chad Frost spoke about a meeting that is scheduled with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection agency on November 16th to discuss the details of the coastal remediation and learn what concerns and suggestions the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection agency may have regarding the coastal remediation. Chad Frost said he emailed a document to Tom Switz and Sandy Tissiere detailing the permits with an estimated timeline and fees; Sandy Tissiere will send it out to the committee after the meeting. Chad Frost said he reviewed the Gantt chart created in 2017 that was the timeline for the master plan development and found these timelines had been completed and the next Gantt chart will be for the permitting and construction documents.

Steve White told Chad Frost there is funding available through the Mystic Seaport Museum for middle school students to participate in river science. Steve White said this would be a great opportunity to get the middle school students involved in the studies being done on the river over the winter. Steve White said he will contact Chad Frost to start the conversation of this collaboration.

- Discussion – Update from Friends of Stonington Crew

Mike O'Neill reported the Friends of Stonington Crew have been continuing with the process of the boathouse. Mike O'Neill said they have spent a lot of time looking at different construction options for the boathouse saying they had initially wanted to go with a traditional wood framed building but found it would have to be largely steel framed reinforced. Mike O'Neill said he reached out to a timber frame company he has worked with and they have come up with a very aggressive price for the boathouse; in addition, they have agreed to donate in excess of \$100,000.00 in engineering time to do the engineering of the structure of the building. Mike O'Neill said the inside of the building is still in discussion and will be meeting with the fire marshal to talk about what the requirements are for a commercial building.

Mike O'Neill started a discussion about the house that has to remain on the property. Mike O'Neill brought forth the questions of whose responsibility is it to move it, who's responsible for the build out, what the use of the building was going to be and who was going to manage it and who will maintain it. The committee discussed the various concerns with the plan for the house and came to the consensus there should be a subcommittee formed to discuss this item with the town. The sub-committee will consist of Mike Crowley, Tim O'Brien, Mike O'Neill, Steve Planchon and Deb Downie in conjunction with Susan Cullen.

8. New Business

- Discussion – 2021 Meeting Calendar

Chairman Kepple told the committee the September 6, 2021 meeting is on Labor Day and suggested that meeting be moved to September 13, 2021.

A motion was made by Mike Crowley and seconded by Tom Switz to adopt the 2021 Mystic River Boathouse Park meeting calendar as amended.

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

9. Comments from the Public

There weren't any public comments.

10. Comments from the Committee

Steve White introduced Chris Gasciorek, Vice President of Watercraft Preservation and Programs and Interim Executive Vice President of the Mystic Seaport Museum. Steve White said he is ending his tenure with the committee but would like Chris to continue in his place on the committee as a guest to represent the Mystic Seaport Museum. Steve White said Chris will be an important resource with the project going forward and contribute with the response of a neighbor of the Mystic River Boathouse Park. The committee welcomed Chris Gasciorek. Chairman Kepple welcomed Chris Gasciorek saying the committee is delighted that he and the Mystic Seaport Museum want to continue to be part of the Mystic River Boathouse


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Park project. Chairman Kepple said everyone knows the generosity the Mystic Seaport Museum has shown the Stonington rowing program. Chris Gasiorek said he will help out in any way he can and looks forward to keeping their support to Stonington rowing.

11. **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Jim Kelley and seconded by Farouk Rajab to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandy Tissiere
Recording Secretary