

Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Stonington Police Department, Pawcatuck, CT
Monday, December 2, 2019
7:00 p.m.

The Stonington Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee held a regular meeting on this date, Monday, December 2, 2019 at the Stonington Police Department at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Tim O'Brien, Acting Chairman; Mike O'Neill, Vice Chairman; Steve White, Tom Switz, Mike Crowley, Breck Perkins, Steve Planchon, Nick Kepple, Farouk Rajab, Jim Kelley and Sandy Tissiere, Recording Secretary; as well Danielle Chesebrough, First Selectwoman; June Strunk, Board of Selectwoman; Deb Downie, Board of Selectwomen; Chad Frost, Principal, Kent + Frost; Stonington High School students and interested citizens
Members Absent: Kathryn Burchenal

1. **Call to order**

Acting Chairman Tim O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The group joined together for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Comments from the Public**

Steve Menno, President, Mystic River Historical Society, asked about a newspaper article that said after the house on the property was moved 90 feet, the State Historic Preservation Office was going to archive information about it and make it available to the historical society. Mr. Meadow said this was the first time the Mystic River Historical Society had heard about it and wanted more details on how this would work. Mike O'Neill said the agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office had just been signed and there will be some time involved before the house will be moved and there will be notice prior to when it happens.

4. **Approval of minutes**

A motion was made by Farouk Rajab and seconded by Mike O'Neill to approve the minutes from November 4, 2019 as presented. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

5. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Tim O'Brien opened the floor for nominations for a chairman and vice-chairman.

Steve Planchon nominated Nick Kepple as Chairman of the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee. Mike O'Neill seconded the nomination. The vote of the committee was unanimous and Nick Kepple was elected Chairman of the committee.

Farouk Rajab nominated Mike O'Neill as Vice-Chairman of the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee. Breck Perkins seconded the nomination. The vote of the committee was unanimous and Mike O'Neill was elected Vice-Chairman of the committee.

6. **Correspondence**

A copy of the signature sheet from the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Stonington and the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office signed by Rob Simmons, previous First Selectman, and Mary B. Dunne, State Historic Preservation Officer, was submitted as correspondence (attachment #1).

7. **Old Business**

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

Chad Frost provided an update of the Memorandum of Agreement saying it had been approved and signed by the State Historic Preservation Office and the Town of Stonington.

• **Discussion – Architectural Consultant for Boathouse**

This item continues the same as from the last meeting.

• **Discussion – Request for Renaming of the Park**

This item was tabled.

8. **New Business**

• **Discussion – Master Plan Reconfiguration**

Discussed under item #8. New Business, Special Meeting, December 7, 2019.

• **Discussion – Historical Placards**

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Discussed under item #8. New Business, Special Meeting, December 7, 2019.

• Special Meeting December 7, 2019

Chad Frost presented the Mystic River Boathouse Park – Master Plan Update, 12/7/19 overhead presentation he will present at the December 7, 2019, community meeting between the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee and the Hart Perry Boathouse Committee. Chad Frost said, to benefit members of the community who had not seen it and refresh the memories of the community of who had seen it, he will start the presentation with a summary of the original presentation then lead into the progression of the past year that will lead to the next steps of the project. The committee discussed some areas of most importance to convey to the public would be the separation between the two projects - the first being the park and the second, the boathouse; the reason why the park project process is taking longer than anticipated, i.e. the Memorandum of Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Society; the majority of the cost of building the park would be remediation which includes park improvements, and, how the remediation cost would be eligible for state funding and the timeline of completion for the park would be dependent on securing state funding for remediation to ensure the park is safe for public use. Chad Frost told the committee the park could not be done in phases but there could be value engineering done based on funding. The committee concurred to move forward with the park as planned.

A motion was made by Tim O'Brien and seconded by Steve Planchon to participate with the Friends of Stonington Crew at a special meeting on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the Stonington High School. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Breck Perkins asked if a construction manager should be hired to define actual costs for the project. Chad Frost said it would be feasible to hire a cost estimator and he would look into the cost of it.

The committee discussed the timeline for Chad Frost to move forward with the Remedial Action Plan application.

A motion was made by Tim O'Brien and seconded by Steve Planchon to authorize Chad Frost to proceed to prepare the Remedial Action Plan application to DECD to be reviewed at the next MRBPIC regular meeting. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Mike O'Neill shared his presentation of the proposed boathouse he will present at the Saturday community meeting. Mike O'Neill said he will present a summary of the process of how the boathouse was developed and the many transformations the design has went through to reflect community preference and the State Historic Preservation Office requirements.

9. Comments from the Public

Rob Simmons, 268 North Main Street, stated he is impressed with the work of the committee as they are so informed and is looking forward to the community meeting on Saturday. Mr. Simmons continued saying he thinks the community is looking for the committee to provide them the facts on the project and the process it will take to build the park. Mr. Simmons said he thought the decisions made by the committee at the meeting were excellent and he is in support of them.

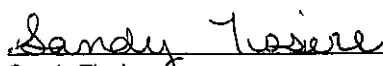
10. Comments from the Committee

There weren't any comments from the committee.

11. Adjourn

Steve White made a motion and Mike Crowley seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted



Sandy Tissiere
Recording Secretary

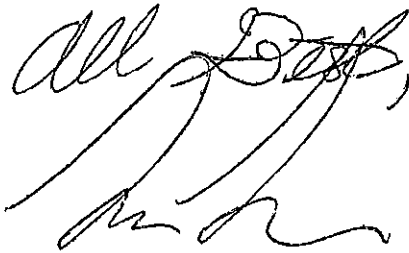


Department of Economic and
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

Hi Rob,

See enclosed. Thanks for all
of your help and attention to
this project!

All Best,


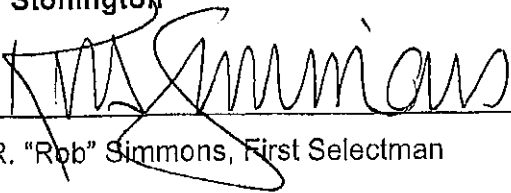
State Historic Preservation Office

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5 | Hartford, CT 06103 | P: 860.500.2300 | DECD.org


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SIGNATORIES:

Town of Stonington

By:  Date: NOV 05 2019
Robert R. "Rob" Simmons, First Selectman

Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer

By:  Date: 11-18-19
Mary B. Dunne, State Historic Preservation Officer