

Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Stonington Police Department, Pawcatuck, CT
Monday, August 5, 2019
7:00 p.m.

The Stonington Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee held a regular meeting on this date, Monday, August 5, 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, Jim Kelley, Nick Kepple, Breck Perkins Steve Planchon, Steve White, Alan Strunk, Kathryn Burchenal and Sandy Tissiere, Recording Secretary; as well as Jason Vincent, Director of Planning, Town of Stonington; Chad Frost, Principal, Kent + Frost, and Herb Holmstedt

Members absent were Tim O'Brien and Farouk Rajab

1. **Call to order**

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Kathryn Burchenal led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Comments from the Public**

No public comments.

4. **Approval of minutes**

A motion was made by Nick Kepple and seconded by Mike O'Neill to approve the minutes from July 1, 2019 as presented. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

5. **Correspondence**

There wasn't any correspondence.

6. **Old Business**

It was decided to discuss the lease agreement first.

• **Discussion – Agreement with Friends of Stonington Crew and Town of Stonington**

The draft lease agreement was discussed by the committee. Nick Kepple started with the summary of the document speaking about Schedule B. Safety rules saying this item was included to demonstrate the importance of safety set by the USRowing for the crew activities that will be held on the property. The second item included is a letter from the IRS determining Friends of Stonington Crew, Inc. as a status 503(c) organization. The third item is the by-laws of Friends of Stonington Crew. The last item is the Mission Statement and Program Summary to provide details of the activities that will take place at the park. Chairman Simmons asked what is the difference between Friends of Stonington Crew and Stonington Community Rowing Center. Mike O'Neill explained, at this time, the group is Friends of Stonington Crew but in time will transition from a group that basically serves a small entity of the community to a bigger organization that will serve the community by offering rowing programs. Friends of Stonington Crew will remain as a club to support the Stonington High School rowing program. The Stonington Community Rowing Center will be the umbrella that encompasses the Friends of Stonington Crew and the Stonington Community Rowing program. The committee discussed the building and specified docks will be leased and the park will be for public use. The Stonington Community Rowing Center will provide their yearly schedule to the Stonington Recreation Commission so scheduled events for the park don't overlap.

The committee asked the sub-committee to edit the lease document to clarify language emphasizing the park is for public use, provide more detail for future reference, review lists of submitted committee comments and include Schedule A, a graphic map delineating the areas of the park to be leased by Stonington Community Rowing Center.

• **Discussion – Structures of the Property**

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

• **Discussion – Historic Consulting**

Chairman Simmons presented the letter he sent Todd Levine, Historian, State Historic Preservation Office, for committee discussion. Chad Frost said he has been in contact with Mr. Levine and, after discussion, Mr. Levine appears to be in support of Concept 5; Mr. Levine indicated when he returns from vacation, he will send an email of support enabling the creation of the

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draft Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Stonington and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Once Mr. Levine confirms his support, a meeting will be scheduled with Mr. Levine, Bruce Clouet, Elizabeth Shapiro, Director of Operations, Preservation and Museums and other involved SHPO and DECD employees to discuss the project.

- Discussion – Architect for Boathouse
Mike O'Neill said this is on hold until there is an agreement with SHPO and clear direction for design.
- Discussion – Renaming of the Boathouse Park
This item was not discussed.

7. New Business

- Discussion – Reschedule next regular meeting
Chairman Simmons suggested, as the next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 2, 2019, which is Labor Day, there be a special meeting scheduled for Monday, September 9, 2019.

A motion was made by Mike Crowley and seconded by Tom Switz to reschedule the regular meeting of Monday, September 2, 2019 to a special meeting scheduled for Monday, September 9, 2019.

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

8. Comments from the Public

Mr. Holmstedt asked when is the date of the ground breaking of the park.
Chairman Simmons answered the process has been more complicated and is taking longer than anticipated.

9. Comments from the Committee

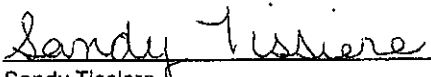
Breck Perkins asked, as there are two tracks for the park, one for the building and one for the park, are we moving forward with regulatory issues with the park. Chad Frost answered there has not been progress in regulatory issues as they need to have the master plan completed and approved with the cost agreement associated with it.

Chairman Simmons said it was his honor to chair the committee but he has decided not to run for re-election and his service as Chairman of the committee will come to an end at the end of November. Chairman Simmons asked the committee to consider who might be interested in taking over as chairman of the committee the first week of December.

10. Adjourn

As there was no further business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Sandy Tisler
Recording Secretary