

**Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Cisco Webex Virtual Meeting**  
**Monday, June 1, 2020**  
**6:00 p.m.**

The Stonington Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee held a regular virtual meeting on this date, Monday, June 1, 2020 via Cisco Webex meeting platform.

Present were Nick Kepple, Chairman, Mike O'Neill, Vice Chairman; Tim O'Brien, Tom Switz, Steve Planchon, Breck Perkins, Farouk Rajab, Mike Crowley, Kathryn Burchenal, Jim Kelley, Rick Broberg, 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 and Fran Hoffman

Members Absent: Steve White

**1. Call to order**

Chairman Nick Kepple called the meeting the order at 6:08 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The group joined together for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Seating of Alternates**

Alternates were not seated.

**4. Comments from the Public**

There were not any public comments.

**5. Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the March 2, 2020 Regular meeting and May 11, 2020 Special meeting were presented for approval.

A motion was made by Farouk Rajab and seconded by Mike O'Neill to approve the March 2, 2020 Regular meeting and May 11, 2020 Special meeting minutes as presented.

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**6. Correspondence**

There wasn't any correspondence.

**7. Old Business**

**• Discussion – Brownfield Grant application update**

Chairman Kepple told the committee he has received a copy of the scoring rubric the state uses for the Brownfield grant applications and he will circulate this rubric to the committee. Chairman Kepple shared the rubric has a total score of 130 points and 40 of the points are based on community impact. Chairman Kepple said the best information about the application process at this time is the state will tentatively send out the application sometime in June and July then review submissions in August and September. The goal is to have the application completed and submitted by late June. Susan Cullen said she had a conversation with the state that discussed the grant budget, an update on items that would or wouldn't be eligible expenses and was told it would be important to add something that fell in the assessment realm. Susan Cullen said there has been a lot of progress on the grant in the last few weeks. Chad Frost said the submerged aquatic vegetation study is time sensitive and it needs to be done during the growing season and, then be able to get back and do additional work if needed depending on what is found from the first testing, and this should be done this year. Chad Frost said the cost for the study is included in the addendum but there needs to be plans created from the study to be submitted to the state so they can tell us if we need to do additional aquatic study. Chad Frost said he would confer with Susan Cullen and Deb Downie to determine the scope of work that can be with the remaining funds available. Chairman Kepple shared one of the things that is scored in the rubric is responding to the question "Have permits been pursued" so that is why Chad Frost has emphasized the timeliness of marine aquatic studies so as much support documentation as possible can be pursued with any remaining funds available.

Mike O'Neill asked isn't there additional funds still left in the bond the town took for the original purchase of the property? Chairman Kepple answered, yes, that is true. Mike O'Neill asked if there were things that needed to be done for the grant application, could that money be accessed? Chairman Kepple answered this is something that could be explored with the town

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and asked Chad Frost to elaborate. Chad Frost said there is about \$400,000 above and beyond the purchase price and \$80,000.00 for cleanup in another account. Chad Frost said the way it was explained to him this money was to be used for reimbursement of needed items that had to be paid for up-front and state grant non-reimbursable items. Mike O'Neill spoke of \$85,000.00 in escrow from the prior owner for shoreline cleanup and this should be something to be pursued as it was based on if the cost exceeded the initial estimate that money would be available for shoreline cleanup. Deb Downie explained there have been some discussions with a couple of environmental attorneys who indicated part of the grant application is that this wouldn't happen without the grant. Deb Downie said there is some bond money left but it is to be used later in the project. Chairman Kepple asked the committee to again look at the community organization support list and see if they know someone in the organization and to please reach out to them. Fran Hoffman said she has a list of people she has already contacted and will share that list with the committee.

- Project Budget Update  
Discussed in Item #7. Old Business
- Discussion – Update from Friends of Stonington Crew  
Mike O'Neill reported everything is on hold for now.

**8. New Business**

Tom Switz asked Chad Frost for, in the MRBPIC master plan spreadsheet, number 8. Permitting requirements and cost estimates, could you put that into a spreadsheet for the committee similar to the master plan spreadsheet? Chad Frost said he would break those into individual sheets.

**9. Comments from the Public**

There weren't any public comments.

**10. Comments from the Committee**

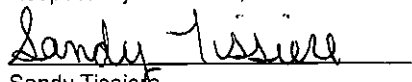
Chairman Kepple asked Farouk Rajab if he would ask the Stonington Board of Education to supply a letter of support for the park. Chairman Kepple spoke of the previous conversation regarding how the rowing center and the town would collaborate on the administration of the park and suggested this conversation continue between Mike Crowley and the recreation commission, the recreation department and the Friends of Stonington Crew. Mike Crowley asked about the opening of the park and current social distancing regulation. Chairman Kepple replied there are no health rules applied to the park because the park isn't open due to contamination. Mike O'Neill said the park was not opened yet to the general public and the crew team is using it on a supervised basis. Mike Crowley asked why the public couldn't use the park if the crew team was using it. Chad Frost referred to the health commissioner's report saying the contamination on the site that is close to the surface is mostly coal ash and it is toxic at high enough levels if you are ingesting it such as if the park was being used inappropriately. The crew team is supervised and walk across the site to the water for access. The committee discussed other supervised groups that could possibly use the property but that would be a town decision; the liability to the town of public use of the property was also discussed.

Chairman Kepple asked the committee to consider the use of any remaining assessment grant funds to pursue eligible permits. The committee agreed by consensus to allow Chad Frost, Susan Cullen and Deb Downie to continue to explore and confirm prudent use of those remaining funds for whatever permitting activity that is important in the project and help the application and allowable by DECD.

**11. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Farouk Rajab and seconded by Steve Planchon to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m.  
The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sandy Tissiere  
Recording Secretary