

**Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
Stonington Police Department, Pawcatuck, CT
Monday, May 6, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

The Stonington Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee held a regular meeting on this date, Monday, May 6, 2019 at the Stonington Police Department at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Rob Simmons, Chairman; Mike O'Neill, Vice Chairman; Mike Crowley, Tom Switz, Jim Kelley, Steve Planchon, Breck Perkins, Steve White, Farouk Rajab, Alan Strunk, Kathryn Burchenal, and Sandy Tissiere, Recording Secretary; as well as Jason Vincent, Stonington Director of Planning and Zoning; Chad Frost, Principal, Kent + Frost and interested citizens

Members absent were Nick Kepple and Tim O'Brien

1. **Call to order**

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Steve White led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Comments from the Public**

No comments from the public.

4. **Approval of minutes**

A motion was made by Tom Switz and seconded by Mike Crowley to approve the April 1, 2019 minutes as submitted. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

5. **Correspondence**

No correspondence submitted.

6. **Old Business**

- Discussion – State Historic Preservation Office Meeting Update
- Discussion – Structures of the Property

At the April 1, 2019 meeting, Chad Frost presented different options for consideration of presentation to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the committee voted for Mr. Frost to move forward with options #2 and #5. Mr. Frost reported to the committee that SHPO was most receptive to Option #5 and he did have verbal confirmation and is recommending a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be made between the MRBPIC and SHPO. Mr. Frost shared a handout with option #5 and a draft MOU he had written. Mr. Frost discussed the details of the MOU regarding SHPO requirements and the need to mitigate any adverse impacts. Chad Frost said, in concept, there is an agreement but there are still many details to be worked out. The important thing is to have the MOU so the project can move forward, it would provide guidelines for hiring an architect by the boathouse committee.

Mr. Frost recommended a committee discussion about hiring a historic consultant and their place in the project, should they be working with the park committee or the boathouse committee. Mr. Perkins opined the boathouse committee needs to have an opinion of understanding of what they are going to receive and the architect who is going to design the boathouse needs to be charged with that understanding before he can proceed. Therefore, I believe it is in the best interest of the project, the historical advisor be engaged by the park committee that would allow it to proceed with a good understanding when the project is turned over to the boathouse committee of moving forward.

The architect for the boathouse was discussed. Mike O'Neill said, as the project guidelines have fundamentally changed, the Boathouse Committee will have to reconsider their criteria for an architect. Mike O'Neill said the boathouse committee will apply the new guidelines to find an architect who has the knowledge and experience to build a boathouse that will fit into those guidelines.

The committee discussed the SHPO guidelines and how to develop a park and boathouse that would fit into those guidelines while also maintaining a recreational facility for the town. Chairman Simmons asked the committee, as SHPPO has verbally

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conveyed they like option #5, to retain mass of the house, move it north 88 feet with the additions of training space and boat bays to the south and the west, if they would like to move forward with the MOU. Chairman Simmons said that he believes there is value in hiring the historical consultant back.

A motion was made by Mike Crowley and seconded by Tom Switz to move forward with Option #5 to retain mass of house, move it north 88 feet with the additions of training space and boat bays to the south and west. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

The committee discussed the motion to move on sending the Draft MOU forward and concurred a historical consultant should be hired prior to the MOU being moved forward.

A motion was made by Steve Planchon and seconded by Breck Perkins to authorize Chad Frost to seek out a qualified historical consultant for this purpose and authorize the town to engage in a contract of a not-to-exceed \$10,000.00, if necessary, for this purpose.

Discussion: The committee discussed how the historical consultant will work with the boathouse architect. The reason there is a need for a historical consultant is their knowledge will assist in the development of the MOU and to work with all parties involved to stay within SHPO guidelines. The committee discussed the many complex issues regarding the project. Chairman Simmons said the good news is the project is moving forward but there are still many aspects of this project that need to be worked out. Chairman Simmons said hiring a historical consultant will assist in moving the project forward.

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

- Discussion – Education Subcommittee

Steve White reported the Education Subcommittee met and put together a presentation.

Steve White summarized the points of the presentation and will send copies of the presentation to committee:

<p><u>The committee has three goals:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide public information on the land. 2. To provide a plan to share this information with the public. 3. To suggest ideas to find sources for additional funding. 	<p><u>Two plans for consideration:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outdoor plan inclusive of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation of archeological information. • Graphic maps of the evolution of the site. • Greenmanville area walks to include the park, DPNC Coogan Farm, The Mystic Seaport Museum and other area assets. 2. Indoor plan inclusive of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor classroom with historic interpretation of the Rossie Velvet Mill Historic District and Greenmanville Avenue. • A display with the history of house. • Displays of the river and the ecology of the river and provide information on a resilient coastline. • A river monitoring system to monitor the health of the river.
<p><u>Implementation Resources</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To partner with Mystic Seaport Museum and DPNC Coogan Farm to create a trio of entities. 2. The Stonington Historical Society 3. The Mystic River Historical Society 4. Stonington High School history teacher with students to take on a study project of the history of the park. 	<p><u>Funding Sources:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SHPO education grants 2. The Connecticut Historical Society 3. The Community Foundation of Eastern CT 4. State and Federal Grants

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- Discussion – Request for Renaming the Park

Chairman Simmons said as the park belongs to the whole town, a consideration for a name could be the Stonington Boathouse Park. The committee discussed renaming the park to the name Stonington Boathouse Park being a name that would be inclusive of the all the boroughs of the town. This item will need further consideration.

4. New Business

- Discussion – Agreement with Friends of Stonington Crew and Town of Stonington
Nick Kepple was not present so this item was tabled.
- Discussion – Memorandum of Agreement with SHPO
Discussed in Item #6. Old Business
- Discussion – Historical Consulting
Discussed in item #6. Old Business

5. Comments from the Public

There were not any public comments.

6. Comments from the Committee

There were not any committee comments.

7. Adjourn

As there were no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Sandy Tissiere
Recording Secretary