

**Town of Stonington
Board of Selectmen and
Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee
Joint Special Meeting Minutes
Stonington Police Department, Stonington, CT
June 5, 2017**

The Stonington Board of Selectmen and the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee held a joint special meeting on this date, June 5, 2017, at the Stonington Police Department at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Rob Simmons, Chairman, First Selectman; Mike O'Neill, Vice Chairman; Mike Crowley, Steve Planchon, Scott Bates, Steve White, Tom Switz, Kathryn Burchenal, Jim Kelley, Sandy Tissiere, Recording Secretary as well as Jason Vincent, Stonington Director of Planning; Chief Darren Stewart, Captain Todd Olson, Stonington Police Department and interested citizens

Members absent: Kate Rotella, Selectwoman; Mike Spellman, Selectman; Frank Todisco, Breck Perkins, Bryan Bentz, Nick Kepple and Alan Strunk

1) Call to order at 7:00pm

Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Comments from the Public

None

4) Approval of Minutes

The following motion was made by Scott Bates and seconded by Steven White to approve the minutes of May 8, 2017 as presented.

All were in favor and the motion carried.

5) Correspondence

1. The first item of correspondence was from The Stonington Garden Club who sent a letter offering their support for the park. Kirby Williams was in attendance of the meeting and will share her presentation and proposal to the committee during the second comments from the public.
2. The second item of correspondence was an email from Dave Carreau, Chairman of the Mystic Harbor Commission, who stated on their meeting of May 4, they worked on the task of marking navigational channels to the village of Old Mystic with four pilings. Mr. Carreau also included a T-3 anchorage description with moorings A-B and C & D and it doesn't appear the delineation interferes with the Mystic River Boathouse Park or any future use by the crew.
3. The third item of correspondence was a letter from Kyle Zyck, Principal, Kyle Zick Landscape and Architecture, Inc. refining his proposal, for discussion.
4. The fourth item of correspondence was from Chad Frost, Principal, Kent Frost Landscape and Architecture, also refining their proposal to be discussed later.

6) Old Business

No discussion

7) New Business

- **Discussion – July 3, 2017 meeting**

Chairman Simmons led the discussion of the July 3, 2017 regular scheduled meeting being the day before the holiday. Mr. Simmons suggested the meeting be rescheduled as a special meeting on Monday, June 10, 2017 at a location to be determined.

A motion was made by Tom Switz and seconded by Mike Crowley to reschedule the July 3, 2017 regular meeting to a special meeting on Monday, June 10, 2017.

All were in favor and the motion carried.

Chairman Simmons asked Sandy Tissiere to work with his secretary, Stacey Haskell, to secure a location for the meeting.

- **Discussion – Project Manager**

Chairman Simmons spoke of the motion made at the May 8, 2017 MRBPIC meeting to approve the interview committee to continue final interviews with the two finalists and report their recommendation to the committee. Chairman Simmons asked Mike O'Neill to share the process of the interview committee and how they reached their decision. Mr. O'Neill said there were an impressive number of bids submitted for this project. Mr. O'Neill explained the process applied by the interview committee to determine who would be on scale, a good fit and give the project the attention it needed. When the final two bidders were decided upon, the interview committee

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decided to give them the opportunity to refine their costs. Both companies are very talented organizations of equal measure but the decision came down to keeping it local. The recommendation of the interview committee is Kent Frost. Kent Frost have done work on two adjacent properties so they are already aware of the tone of the area and have a history of working in the community. The committee recognized Chad Frost, Principal, Kent Frost, in the audience and invited him to speak. Mr. Frost introduced himself and said they were very excited about this project and the opportunity to work with the town. Mr. Frost said they are passionate about their area and do most of our work in southeastern Connecticut so by keeping it local, we can be available as things are going in. Mr. Frost said this project will be a tremendous asset to the town for a long time and we can't wait to be a part of it.

A motion was made by Tom Switz and seconded by Steve Planchon for the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee to select Kent Frost as the project manager.

Discussion: Chairman Simmons said he was astounded by the number of bids submitted for this project. Mr. Simmons reiterated the amount of talented companies that bid on this project. Mr. Simmons spoke of the process of the interview committee to determine the best choice for the project. Mr. Simmons asked Steven White to speak on his experience of working with Kent Frost. Mr. White said he had the highest regard for their work; they are responsive, insightful, communicative and patient. Mr. White said he is thrilled and if he knew they were a finalist, would have spoken on their behalf.

All were in favor and the motion carried.

Chairman Simmons suggested the Director of Planning prepare paperwork for the Board of Selectman meeting next Wednesday night to consider approval of this recommendation.

- **Discussion – Security of Site**

Chairman Simmons discussed the current security measures of the site. Selectman Mike Spellman (who was not in attendance) had compiled a list of suggested items that have been shared with Chief Stewart who will present his recommendations tonight. Chief Stewart thanked the committee for taking on this town project that will add to the community but to maintain this project security measures need to be implemented to keep it nice. Chief Stewart said their consultant has put together a brief plan of what could be done. Chief Stewart said they would recommend installing a camera connected via internet directly to the police station so the property could be watched in real time. Chief Stewart shared there is money in the CIP budget for this camera when the committee is ready to have it installed. Chief Stewart suggested the first placement option would be on Latitude 41 and hook into their internet service. The other options would be the house or the pole next to the house. Chief Stewart spoke of other properties in town who share their internet with security cameras and the process to set this up noting the cost was minimal. Chief Stewart also spoke of the importance of written rules posted on the property. The committee discussed the placement options of the camera. Scott Bates asked if signage would be installed. Chief Stewart said the signs would be posted as soon as the camera is installed. Mike Crowley spoke of the cameras installed at the recreation area and asked if these cameras could see everything at night. Chief Stewart said the cameras could provide enough clarity for a starting point but technology is always changing and the cameras can be updated as technology advances. Captain Olson shared information regarding pan cameras that enables dispatch to move the camera and see what is going on which will probably be installed in this area. Captain Olson also spoke of other cameras around town that share local area business' internet at minimal costs and with no effect on their service.

A motion was made by Steve White and seconded by Mike Crowley to authorize Chief Stewart or his representative to contact Steve White or his representative to see what be involved in creating a memorandum of understanding for internet use between the Mystic Seaport and the town to present to the committee at their next meeting.

Rob Simmons reiterated the police department representing the town will contact the Seaport to speak to a representative regarding placing a camera on Latitude 41 and connecting to the internet through their connection.

All were in favor and the motion carried.

Steve White asked are there any short-term consideration of lights on the site. Chief Stewart answered that public works have installed motion sensor lights on the property and the police will stop to check if they see them on.

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8) **Comments from the Public**

Chairman Simmons introduced Kirby Williams, Conservation Chairperson, from the Stonington Garden Club to speak of their proposal. Ms. Williams shared the Stonington Garden's Club offer of support to fund the services of a conservation consultant. Ms. Williams told the committee their choice is Judy Preston, detailing her expressive resume of projects of this nature. Chairman Simmons told Ms. Williams, the offer is greatly appreciated. Mr. Simmons said when they get together this week to discuss next steps, one of those steps would be to ask Ms. Preston to visit the property.

9) **Comments from the Committee**

Steve Planchon asked how do about getting communication out to the town to say we have chosen a project manager. Chairman Simmons said that he and Mr. Vincent would put out a press release and release the information to other forms of media. Chairman Simmons concluded the meeting speaking about what a gift it is to be serving the town of Stonington at this time noting there is the park and the elementary schools remodeling project.

10) **Adjourn**

As there was no further business to come before this committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully submitted

Sandra Tisiere

Sandra Tisiere
Recording Secretary

Stacey Haskell
Stacey Haskell
Recording Secretary