

Town of Stonington  
Board of Selectmen and  
Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee  
Joint Special Meeting Minutes  
Stonington Police Department, Pawcatuck, CT  
November 6, 2017

The Stonington Board of Selectmen and the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee held a joint special meeting on this date, November 6, 2017, at the Stonington Police Department at 7:00 p.m.

Present were Rob Simmons, Chairman, First Selectman; Tom Switz, Steve Planchon, Mike Crowley, Scott Bates, Breck Perkins, Kathryn Burchenal, Jim Kelley, Nick Kepple, Steve White, and Sandy Tissiere, Recording Secretary as well as Chad Frost, Frost and Kent

Members absent were Mike O'Neill, Vice Chairman; Kate Rotella, Selectwoman; Mike Spellman, Selectman; Frank Todisco, Bryan Bentz, and Alan Strunk

**1) Call to order**

Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2) Pledge of Allegiance**

Jim Kelley led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3) Comments from the Public**

No public comments

**4) Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Tom Switz and seconded by Mike Crowley to approve the minutes from October 2, 2017.

**Discussion:** Chairman Simmons asked a change be made to page 3 under the Discussion-Friends of Stonington Crew, the sentence "Chairman Simmons said the next issue to be addressed is the Friends of Stonington using the site" be changed to the "Chairman Simmons said the next issue to be addressed is the the Friends of Stonington Crew using the site.". Ms. Tissiere will amend the minutes to reflect this change.

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**5) Correspondence**

Betty Smith, President, Rotary Club of Mystic, wrote a letter on behalf of the Rotary Club of Mystic, to the Friends of Stonington Crew, saying they had approved a donation of \$10,000 to provide outdoor benches for the park. Chairman Simmons said the donation would be given to the boathouse committee but it would be up to the implementation committee to decide the type of benches to purchase and their placement. The committee discussed the amount of the donation regarding the number and type of benches that could be purchased. Chairman Simmons said the committee understands the intent of the gift and they will have some supervisory responsibility for its implementation and will find out if it is too much or too little and stated the donation is a welcome development. Mr. Simmons shared it has been mentioned the Mystic Elm tree will be turned into a bench for this project but would have be placed inside.

**6) Old Business**

Not discussed

**7) New Business**

Discussion – 2018 Meeting Schedule

Chairman Simmons shared with the committee it is required by charter to submit an upcoming yearly schedule that requires committee approval. Chairman Simmons said the schedule was based on the first Monday of the month. Chairman Simmons reviewed the schedule discussing the days of concern: The first being January 1, it may be changed or canceled; the second date of concern could be July 2, because of vacation schedules, and the third is September 3 which is Labor Day. Chairman Simmons explained changing the date of a meeting involves changing locations as something to keep in mind.

A motion was made by Tom Switz and seconded by Steve White to accept the 2018 MRBPIC meeting schedule as presented. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Discussion – Environmental Site Investigation

Chairman Simmons turned the meeting over to Chad Frost. Mr. Frost said site testing was underway explaining the different testing being done. Fuss and O'Neill and their sub consultants have been onsite drilling holes and putting in borings and monitoring wells as well as doing hazmat testing on both structures. The final results will be available in a couple of weeks. Mr. Frost reported from the 6-10 foot borings, they found there is a variety of fill such as coal slag, construction debris and various materials. Using ground penetrating radar, they looked for underground utilities prior to commencing work, and also used it to try and locate the tunnel that goes under the road. Mr. Frost discussed details of the property that give indication

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of prior use of the property, saying they did some historical investigation and the building was probably used for steam power in conjunction with the power-house for the mill across the street. Mr. Frost discussed additional uses of the property they discovered while researching the history, there are still more questions than answers at this point. The committee discussed the historical aspect of the property and Mr. Frost said there would be information onsite of the park to share the history of the property with the people who visit. It is important to celebrate and acknowledge the historical value of the site while using it to create a valuable asset to the future of the town. Steve White said the Seaport would share any historical information they have regarding the property.

Mr. Frost discussed the schedule, saying there is an 18 month schedule that is being broken down into detailed tasks to ensure the project remain on schedule. Mr. Frost said even with the slow start, the project is right on schedule. Mr. Frost asked the committee how much involvement the committee wants to have in planning, how many meetings they want to have and how many community meetings would be needed. The committee discussed they would like sufficient time to review all documents before presenting them to the public. This would enable the committee to meet and discuss any suggested changes and for Mr. Frost to make any recommended changes. Mr. Kent said the next step would be to create the conceptual design. The public input for conceptual design was done at the September 9, kick off meeting, where the public defined what was important to them regarding the use of the park. Mr. Frost will use this information in conjunction with committee recommendations to create two or three conceptual designs to present to the committee. The committee will determine which conceptual design will lead to a developmental design which can be presented to the public. Mr. Frost asked the committee about the need for social media. There is enough social media sites available to share the information from the MRBPIC meetings and progress being made.

**8) Comments from the Public**

No public comments.

**9) Comments from the Committee**

Chairman Simmons reminded the committee, Mr. Kepple said he would have a draft proposal of the boathouse management agreement by January. Mr. Kepple reported he has identified about a potential 12 cities and towns with useful and comparable agreements to be used as a database in creation of a draft proposal. Mr. Kepple will work with Mr. Vincent to create this database and the draft proposal. Mr. Kepple said in January he would report on the strengths and weaknesses of various components of the agreements used and present the draft proposal.


Chairman Simmons told the committee he visited the boathouses in Old Lyme and Guilford discussed at the October meeting saying he took extensive notes. Mr. Simmons said these boathouses were not comparable to what the MRBPIC was doing. Mr. Simmons said he did learn about mistakes they made that delayed their projects. Mr. Simmons shared when a boathouse is designed to be used by students, there is State criteria to be met. Mr. Simmons shared this information with Mr. Frost for future reference.

Tom Switz asked how or if the cuts in the State budget affected the grant. Chairman Simmons said the State of Connecticut has reinstated some previous funds cut from the town of Stonington and there is town funds available to move forward with the park project until the State approves their budget.

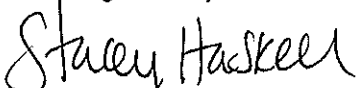
**10) Adjourn**

A motion was made by Scott Bates and seconded by Breck Perkins to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.  
The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted ~



Sandra Tissièrè  
Recording Secretary



Stacey Haskell  
Recording Secretary