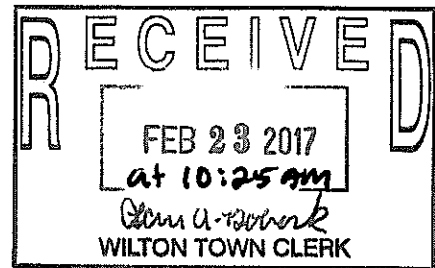


Schencks Island Merwin Meadows Study Committee

February 15, 2017



Attendance – Dan Berg, Susan DiLoreto, Jade Hobson, Ben Couch, Sarah Gioffre, Peter Gaboriault

Others in attendance – Mike Conklin

Summary of matters requiring vote

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm

Motion to approve 1/30/17 meeting minutes was seconded and approved (4 approve, 0 object, 2 abstain)

Motion to approve 2/11/17 meeting minutes was seconded and approved (4 approve, 0 object, 2 abstain)

Motion to approve a standing meeting schedule of the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month was seconded and approved (Unanimously).

Summary of Park Walk on 2/11

Jeff Yates was present and discussed history of the river, options for the maintenance barn, possibilities for parking at Merwin Meadows to accommodate NRVt.

The athletic field at Merwin Meadows is not irrigated, but they would like it to be.

Fence abutting the barn is the property line for the park.

Discussed the possibility of moving the maintenance barn, but ensuring the objective of providing adequate space to store equipment away from the elements in a cost effective way. It was discussed that Rolling Hills Country Club has a Butler building near Skunk Lane that was built for keeping equipment. That project could be a comparable to consider for an equipment building. Some believed that investing in renovating the existing barn may not pass a cost/benefit analysis.

Besides the barn, the committee recognized the need to consider the economic return of each major decision against the required investment.

Wish List

Preliminary ideas were considered as potential elements to improve Schencks Island and Merwin Meadows. The list below is not final and locations of the potential elements were not necessarily discussed.

- Equipment barn
- Open field (It was noted that Storm King park in NY could be a model)

- NRV/other designed paths
- Dog park (noting that we can't have a fence in a flood way and that New Canaan's park at Waveny and Ridgefield's bark park could be models)
- Playground (noted that Newtown's new playground could be a model)
- Pond with water features
- Pavilions
- Band shell/performance area
- Installed art that is functional for dual purpose (benches, play areas, etc.)
- Snack bar
- Gate house
- Splash pad
- Hardened access points to rivers
- Field lighting and irrigation
- Bath house renovation
- Bocce courts
- Ice skating rink (seasonal)
- Benches
- Parking improvements
- Utilities/facilities (accessibility of electricity and water throughout park to facilitate mobile infrastructure and guests such as food trucks)
- Earthworks
- Educational opportunities via installed learning kiosks or info centers
- Establishing "friends of" groups
- Safety fencing (railroad tracks)
- Invasive control
- Handicap access
- Mobile entertainment

Next Steps

How do we get professional advice on development plans?

- Sarah Gioffre to send previous Merwin Meadows RFP to committee and will get a list of landscape architects that was being previously compiled.
- Mike Conklin will follow-up with First Selectwoman on contact with Yale Urban Design Workshop. Mike will also research companies that were used in the design of the Town of Hamden's new park.
- Susan to contact Conway School of Design.

How do we get the public's opinion?

- Public input will be solicited once a preliminary plan is conceptualized.

- Dan Berg will conceptualize a Survey Monkey (or similar platform) survey to send to key stakeholders

Other

Ben to follow-up with Mianus TU Board of Directors to gauge commitment to remove invasive foliage from Schenks Island and Merwin Meadows.

Dan will organize the wish list

Should the committee consider re-branding/re-naming Schenks' Island?

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 28.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and unanimously approved at 9:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Ben Couch

