

2017 MAY 24 A 8:30

BY: LK

SIMM Minutes

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5/23/17

Attendance – Susan DiLoreto, Jade Hobson, Ben Couch, Peter Gaboriault, John Priest

Others in attendance – Mike Conklin, Sarah Gioffre

Summary of matters requiring vote

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm - Susan

Mike – discussing previous meetings' purpose and direction

Review of the topics and the idea that there will be a need to list items and eliminate based on feasibility

Susan – discussing the idea of determining the value added benefits and numbers related to the projects

Table discussion about how to arrive at reasonable estimation numbers

What items would be off the table? What costs are currently not going to be considered?

Discussion about use of ice rinks – Citizens accessing area rinks in SoNo, Chelsea Piers, Westport, Ridgefield...

Ben – Cost vs passion of project

Discussion about places that have tried removable rinks – Did YMCA try this years ago?

Mike – project of snack bar at Merwin Meadows with snack bar – big investment with questionable return? What about investment in large spaces in parking area for food trucks and put in hook-ups for power and water only?

Look into the cost on permits, contracts for vendors, cost (check with town)

Ben – discussing Trout Unlimited's initiatives, funding by TU to do the river improvements

Mike – town is working closely with TU, Jeff Yates, to make these projects ready to go within a year

Ben – happy to announce TU commitment to the span of the river, working together with the SIMM committee so as not to conflict

Peter – It will be important to work the education of the town's children

Peter/Jade/All – discussion about invasive species management, herbicides... An important topic that needs the consideration inclusive of cost, effort, re-seeding during floods...

Mike – discussing attendance at conferences regarding invasive species

Ben - Best-efforts execution as a possible solution immediately, volunteers,

Sarah – How are the invasive species at MM? As bad as Schenck's?

Peter – discussing the prices for fencing along railroad in the Schenck's Island stretch

Susan – nature play-scape, discussing the value, usage, various spaces, pathways,

Jade – discussing the possibilities of burns, wild areas, paths engaging with the river, crossings, labyrinths,

Sarah – playground discussion involving replacing the playground at MM, referencing survey completed by a group a few years ago, accessible year – round without a pass, estimated costs at perhaps 250k, one section is a bit newer (younger ages) can that be salvaged? Play space in town is desired, location is key regarding Schenck's – being in MM a playground is a bit far away if you are a parent,

Sarah/John – discussion about different types of playgrounds, what people in the town may want, ideas of ropes, elements

Sarah – what about creating a more natural play area, a unique play area that could draw people in,

Sarah – Pond improvements, water features, spoke to Steve P. about items like dock (difficult to control safety-can happen) things like a trampoline and such may be possible, possible splash pad areas?
Getting more specifics on those

Sarah – gate house? Is this something that would truly get use, possibly not depending on passes/fees, may not be collecting funds at that location

Sarah – MM soccer field – they want to add some irrigation there, that is about it

Susan – next steps

Motion to amend the agenda and adopt items (5-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain)

Motion to approve the 3/28/17 minutes (4-yes, 0-no, 1-abstain)

Vote to approve the agenda from 5/9/17 (3-yes, 0-no, 2 abstain)

Motion to adjourn (9:30) (5-yes, 0-no, 0 abstain)