

Schenck's Island / Merwin Meadows Study Committee
6/27/2017 Meeting – 7:00pm – Comstock 13

In attendance:

- Voting members: Dan Berg, Susan DiLoreto, Jade Hobson, Ben Couch, Andrea Preston
- First Selectman's liaison: Sarah Gioffre
- Guest: Cora Martin

Absent with notice:

- Voting member: John Priest
- Town liaisons: Mike Conklin, Steve Pierce

Absent without notice:

- Voting member: Peter Gaboriault

Meeting called to order at 7:32pm by Dan Berg

Vote to approve minutes from 5/9 meeting:

Dan made the motion to approve

Ben seconded the motion

Yes: Dan, Andrea, Ben

Abstain: Susan, Jade

Motion carried 3-0-2

Vote to approve minutes from 5/23 meeting:

Jade made the motion to approve

Ben seconded the motion

Yes: Susan, Jade, Ben

Abstain: Andrea, Dan

Motion carried 3-0-2

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A discussion ensued of the per-amenity additional work that the committee members have been working on. Dan agreed to collect all the working documents and consolidate into a consistent format for the next meeting. It was discussed that costs for each amenity or feature may not be known to a high degree of specificity at this point and could be wide-ranging depending on the extent to which the feature is developed. We agreed that the consolidated documentation and eventual RFP would show the price ranges in these cases.

Susan and Jade presented visuals and narrative largely focused on the possibilities for development of natural play spaces at Schenck's Island.

Ben discussed the river environment at Schenck's and work planned or underway by Trout Unlimited, some of which is river habitat and bank restoration independent of any other work contemplated at Schenck's, while some dovetails quite nicely with the group's vision for natural play space, and educational and recreational access to the river.

Dan discussed parallel work related to NRVt signage through Wilton center and the potential synergies with Schenck's Island path development and leveraging the NRVt as a visible connector of Merwin and Schenck's. He also discussed parking and gravel drive access for food trucks for special events with an emphasis on keeping the "development" to a minimum, and also the proposed approach for bandshell and stage presence, which would be done using temporary and/or wheeled structures.

Ben mentioned that he may attend the upcoming Schenck's Island concerts as a representative of the SIMM committee and Trout Unlimited in order to answer any questions the public may have at this stage.

Sarah discussed the Merwin Meadows playground, potential pond improvements and feasibility for irrigation of the recreational fields at the southern end of the park, across the brook.

Andrea discussed research conducted on improvement to the grills, sand volleyball court, pavilion and bathhouse at Merwin.

The committee confirmed that we will meet twice in July, on the 11th and 25th, with a goal of getting the RFP finished as quickly as possible.

Andrea motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:01pm.

- Motion seconded by Susan DiLoreto
- Approved unanimously (5-0), no abstentions.