

Schenck's Island / Merwin Meadows Study Committee
7/11/2017 Meeting – 7:30pm – Comstock 13

In attendance:

- Voting members: Dan Berg, Susan DiLoreto, Jade Hobson, Peter Gaboriault
- First Selectman's liaison: Sarah Gioffre

Absent with notice:

- Voting member: Ben Couch, Andrea Preston
- Town liaison: Mike Conklin

Absent without notice:

- Voting member: John Priest
- Town liaison: Steve Pierce

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm by Dan Berg

Vote to approve minutes from 6/27 meeting:

Dan made the motion to approve

Jade seconded the motion

Yes: Dan, Jade, Susan

Abstain: Peter

Motion carried 3-0-1

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Dan read though the draft version of the RFP and the group provided feedback and specific wording suggestions. The majority of the changes to the core text were minor. The one significant semantic change was to be careful with the words "development" and "structures", especially as relates to Schenck's Island, given the committee's focus on maintaining Schenck's as a natural park. The wording was revised to reflect that we clearly want Schenck's to experience greater utilization and be able to host more varied activities, but not be "developed" in the traditional sense of the term, with permanent buildings and artificial play structures.

A paragraph was added to the RFP to make it clear which parties were engaged in the discussion and development of the going-forward vision for both parks and connectivity between them. We want bidders to be fully aware that the vision conveyed in the RFP already reflects agreement amongst a diverse group of constituents with both business and conservation interests in mind.

Given the guidance the committee will provide to prospective bidders regarding prioritization and phased approach to an implementation plan, and the need to keep costs controlled at all points in this process, we changed the bidding request of providing "three concept plans" to just one concept plan, since the phased approach already provides numerous options for how to approach scope and timing.

The remainder of the session was focused on the newly-added Appendix A which lists every feature and amenity, along with its proposed location, overall qualitative value, price range, notes and vision, issues, and relevant external links. This appendix was not fully completed at the time of the meeting and will be filled out for further review at the committee's next meeting.

Dan motioned to adjourn the meeting.

- Motion seconded by Peter
- Approved unanimously (4-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm