

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Mariners Park Project Development ad hoc meeting on May 17, 2021
(this meeting was correctly posted)

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve minutes: 5/3/2021
5. Public input
6. Update on activities at Mariners Park at Gills Rock
7. Discussion and possible action: 5-year plan
8. Discussion and possible action: Presentation/report for Parks and Property Committee
9. Correspondence
10. Future meetings
11. Adjourn

Chair Cathy Ward called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. Committee members Paul Schwengel, Sylvann Welcome, Rick Johnson and Mike Bahrke were present along with Administrator Walter Kalms, Clerk/Treasurer Anastasia Bell and 8 members of the public via teleconference (Zoom).

Ward moved, Bahrke second to approve the agenda as posted. Passed 5-0.

Ward moved, Schwengel second to approve the 5/3/2021 minutes with the word “bottom-up” to be replaced with “top-down in the Public Input section. Passed 5-0.

Public Input – Ed Koznarek, 12707 Highway 42, asked why a marina has been the main discussion and what happened to a park with walking paths. Steve Eatough, 2305 Orchard Lane, asked why a safe harbor is being considered when it wasn’t in the top 5 survey results. He reiterated that this is not what the people want and the Weborgs already have this service and parking. Carl Zapffe, 630 Highway 42, indicated that the buildings should not be removed only to repair the dock, and a safe harbor is inappropriate because it is not on the citizen’s wish list. James Maronek, 1519 E. Door Bluff Road, indicated the focus should be a park, not a launch ramp. Sophie Taubert-Gehan, 11960 Mink River Road, asked if it was necessary to discuss a launch ramp at this time and requested a timeline for the environmental studies and if there is a cost estimate for maintenance of the docks. Ward reported that a draft concept plan was created to approach the DNR and Waterways Commission to seek grant information. The committee was charged with creating a 5-year plan and it is important to consider what may occur in the next 5 years, she will also look into the timeline and maintenance costs. Paul Schwengel noted that the boat launch is not included in the current phased plan, it was discussed to understand all the options.

Activity update – Ward reported that the benches, tables, and grill will be placed by Memorial Day. The crew is working to clean up the boarder and make the parking area more noticeable. Kalms reported that bids to remove the house are due 7/6/21 with a removal deadline of 12/31/2021 and there will be a porta potty placed soon. Schwengel inquired if a “Friends of the Park” group has been formed or if any known fundraising has occurred to decrease the impact on the Town budget.

5-year plan – The phased plan draft was reviewed, various changes were made, and the following items were noted:

- The items listed as phases because they may not correlate to a specific year especially if outside funding is sought.
- Environmental studies have the potential to impact the available options of the grounds.
- The safe harbor is already present, it will likely need to be refurbished.

- The last professional assessment of the buildings occurred 10-12 years ago.
- The current septic may be able to be used for future restrooms, but it may not be able to handle large events.
- All of the costs are rough estimates since bids will need to be obtained prior to any of the large projects being included in the annual budget.
- There are a lot of unknown items which may affect other items listed in later phases.

An updated preliminary concept plan was reviewed, and the following items were noted:

- The launch ramp and trailer parking should be removed since they are not in the phased plan.
- The parking may interfere with current septic system as drawn.
- The driveway location is dangerous as drawn.
- The plan is confusing because the items will not work as drawn.
- The safe harbor would be beneficial because it would be the only one in the northern area of the peninsula.

It was the consensus of the committee to only include a safe harbor in the phased plan. It was also the consensus to not include a visual plan in the report as it will need to be modified as time progresses and visuals plans already have a history of creating significant controversy for this park. The research which has been done by this committee should remain on file in case a subsequent committee formed to determine additional phases.

Correspondence – None

The next Mariners Park Project Development ad hoc meeting will be on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:00pm.

Johnson moved, Welcome second to adjourn at 8:12 pm. Passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Anastasia Bell, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the 6/7/2021 Mariners Park Development ad hoc Committee meeting