

Norton Park Committee
June 6, 2023 - Regular Meeting
Senior Center - 98 Norwich Avenue

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COLCHESTER, CT

2023 JUN -8 AM 8:46

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Robert Misbach, Vice Chair Nan Wasniewski, Kevin Byrne, Juliana Cameron.

Gayle Furman
GAYLE FURMAN
TOWN CLERK

MEMBERS ABSENT: Patrick Reading, Alternate Linda Pasternak.

OTHERS PRESENT: Board of Selectmen Liaison Debi Bates, Jeff Digou, Andrew Norton.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Robert Misbach called this Regular Meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

2. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Andrew Norton said he has spoken to a man who would like to see a handicapped accessible fishing platform at Norton Park. This man is willing to donate to the platform.

Jeff Digou read in the newspaper that the Brownfield Grant has been distributed but Norton Park was not among the recipients.

J. Digou has spoken with State Representative Marc DeCaprio and State Senator Norm Needleman about funding possibilities for Norton Park.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES - MAY

Minutes from the May 2, 2023, Regular Meeting were presented for review and approval. The minutes incorrectly noted approval of the March 7, 2023, meeting minutes. The March minutes were previously approved at the April meeting and the motion should read approval of the *April 3, 2023, meeting minutes, as read.*

K. Byrne would like the May minutes, under Item 6. Fundraising, to include "*The ARPA grant expires on December 31, 2023.*" and "*The Committee was unanimous in their appreciation to Deb Bates for guiding the ARPA grant to a successful conclusion.*"

Motion by: K. Byrne

to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2023, minutes as amended above.

Second by: N. Wasniewski.

Vote: Unanimous to approve, as amended.

4. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

No additions were requested.

5. BOS LIAISON/JAY GIGLIOTTI REPORT

Chair Misbach read the report submitted by J. Gigliotti. See attached.

K. Byrne has also spoken with Representative DeCaprio and Senator Needleman.

6. FUNDRAISING

No report at this time.

7. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No citizens' comments were received.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: K. Byrne

to adjourn this meeting.

Second by: N. Wasniewski.

Vote: Unanimous to approve.

Chair Misbach adjourned this meeting at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Slade
Clerk

On 4/14/2023, we applied for DECD Round 17 Brownfield funding. This grant application was made in the amount of \$1,868,500. This amount represents the total project cost based on the 4/12/2023 estimate, less the remaining DECD grant funds the town still has from the 2016 Round 9 award. DECD usually takes about (2-3) months to review and award projects, so I'm expecting to hear something real soon.

On 5/12/2023, we received (6) questions from DECD on our application. Definitely a good sign. The last time DECD asked questions on a grant application we submitted, the project was awarded. The questions focused on the financial side of the project, but also about the park development plans. Detailed responses were prepared and provided to DECD.

As I discussed in my update last month, we have successfully addressed comments from SHPO. Took a little longer than expected, but we now have the approval from SHPO to move forward. This is particularly important when it comes time for DECD to approve our bid documents. Without SHPO approval, DECD could not approve our bid docs, essentially handicapping us from moving ahead. In response to SHPO's approval, we met with DECD to discuss our next steps.

We also met with Langan, to discuss the next steps from a mitigation perspective. Since the current funding in place only will cover the limited remediation scope of work, Langan suggested to wait until we hear on the Round 17 grant before finalizing the bids. Which makes sense because we have revised the bid specifications so many times, we don't want to do it again. In the meantime, Langan is working to prepare documents needed for the flood management certificate. They can only take it so far because, should we be awarded the Round 17 funds, the flood management certificate would need to be revised again.

On 5/24/2023, Committee member Byrne requested a final copy of the submitted Round 17 Grant to share with Senator Norm Needleman. Kevin had previously reached out to Senator Needleman's office to support the project and our efforts. Senator Needleman offered his support of the project, and will be providing us with a letter of support. Nice work Kevin! Norm is a great guy and his support will go a long way!