



Minutes

Thames River Heritage Park Steering Committee

5 PM, Oct. 21, 2015

City of Groton Municipal Building, Council Chambers
295 Meridian St., Groton

Steering Committee

Pam Adams A
Bruce Avery
Susan Bailey /Al Valente ✓
Kristin Havrilla Clarke ✓
Tammy Daugherty ✓
Deborah Donovan
Janet Downs ✓
Brent Eugenides ✓
Leslie Evans

City of Groton Mayor Marian Galbraith ✓
Senator Andrew Maynard
Ted Moukawsher
New London City Councilor Martin Olsen A
Penny Parsekian, Chair ✓
New London City Councilor Mike Passero
Susan Tamulevich
Priscilla Wells ✓
Elissa Wright
Hali Keeler, *ex officio* ✓

Invited

Senator Paul Formica
Rep. Aundre Bumgardner
Rep. John Scott
Chris Cox, Chair Transition Team ✓
Bruce MacDonald
Juliet Hodge
Judy Benson, The Day ✓
Emily Feltes, social media
Leslie Olding, web design
Mark Jalbert ✓
Henry Collins

Minutes/Agendas

Alan Plattus, ED YUDW
Andrei Harwell, YUDW

1. **Welcome & Introductions** Penny informed the group that Bruce Hyde had resigned from the committee due to his schedule.
2. **Additions/Corrections to July minutes** None
3. **Legislative update – Water Taxi & Park funding, Adopt a Park effort & other** – Senator Formica, Reps. Bumgardner and Scott None
4. **General Progress Report** – Penny

b. Grant applications New London Rotary Centennial Project & Urban Action for Phase I
Penny reported that she, Chris and Marian met with Senator Maynard and his legislative assistant Nick Neeley to discuss strategy regarding the Urban Action grant. Nick is arranging for a meeting with OPM in December. At the request of Senator Formica, Penny and Chris met with him and Rep. Bumgardner to provide further details about the budget.



- c. **Park Website & Facebook pages:** www.thamesriverheritagepark.org & www.facebook.com/thamesriverheritagepark

Penny reported that Transition Team member Penny Newbury is blogging on the site and doing a great job of keeping it current.

5. Subcommittee reports

a. Water Taxi

Marian reported that we cleared one hurdle in our effort to acquire two salvage boats from the Navy in that there were no requests for these boats from the Dept. of Defense, thus clearing the way for us to apply for them. She is working with the CT surplus property agency to make the request for us, which the agency immediately did. A decision should be made by November 7. A federal agency could still trump our request for these two boats, but there are four additional boats that we could apply for. Marian explained that a lot of work needs to be done once we take possession, including transporting them, having them surveyed, fitting them out, etc. We are seeking storage space and have been in contact with Dave Crocker. Tammy suggested we also contact the Wronowskis.

b. Transition Team

Kristin explained the Committee structure and tasks the Transition Team is charged to accomplish and reviewed what has been accomplished so far, including the creation of a draft Mission Statement, a name for the new nonprofit and a draft timeline for setting up the new organization. She said the nonprofit should be incorporated by year end.

6. Relationship between Steering Committee and new nonprofit

Transition Team Chair Chris Cox led the discussion. Several committee members stressed the importance of keeping them involved in the project. Penny explained that the Committee was an ad hoc committee of the Avery-Copp House Board of Directors and that the board did not wish to continue financially supporting the work of the committee. Chris said that he values the Committee's involvement and will take this up with the Transition Team, but that the need for the Committee as a Steering Committee no longer existed now that the Transition Team was operating under a Memorandum of Intent with the state and other key stakeholders.

Chris explained that working on a business and financial plan for the new organization were the focus for November. Signage and wayfinding were dependent upon the Urban Action grant.

He said the Team is looking to collaborate with the Cultural Coalition, the Community Foundation and the Tourism District. Looking ahead, he mentioned The Day's success with book publishing and suggested gauging their interest in doing a book on the Heritage Park. He also mentioned a major exhibit at Lyman Allyn that would create collateral material, involvement with Amistad, commissioning an orchestral piece with the Eastern CT Symphony Orchestra, and working with the schools to produce and share the stories of our area's historic sites.

7. Other business None

Respectfully submitted by Penny Parsekian, 10/22/15