

**TOWN OF DARIEN
GREAT ISLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Jon Zagrodzky (BOS), Chair; Lori Bora (Park and Recreation Commission, Chair); Jim Palen (Board of Finance, Chair); Mark Adiletta (RTM); Mike Burke (BOS); Daniel Kolakowski (resident member); Jeffrey Taebel (resident member); Kipp Visi (resident member)

STAFF: Monica McNally, First Selectman; Kate Buch, Town Administrator; Tony Campanella, Facility Supervisor; Edward Gentile, Director Public Works

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Zagrodzky called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE GIAC MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

There were some typos in the minutes. Mr. Zagrodzky gave the corrections to Ms. Buch.

**** MR. TAEBEL MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**
**** MR. PALEN SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. REMARKS FROM FIRST SELECTMAN, MONICA MCNALLY

Ms. McNally reported that they are good to go for October 28th. The weather is going to be sunny and nice. She created a script about the buildings and the property, but it is going to be more about what people see rather than what they hear.

4. REMARKS FROM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, KATE BUCH REGARDING THE RFP PROCESS AND PROJECT TIMELINES

Ms. Buch reviewed the process for hiring vendors for professional services, especially to help develop the plan and design. The Committee members discussed the process for the project and it was suggested having the Parks Master Plan circulated to provide the Committee members with a refresher of what exists in the parks.

5. REMARKS FROM DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, ED GENTILE

Mr. Gentile provided an update on work the Department has been doing on the Island as well as some of the work they have been trying to schedule or bid out. He said he can provide a monthly update.

Some of the work discussed was that the transformer will arrive tomorrow. They received a quote on the fencing and the roof. They are getting a couple of more quotes for the dock fencing. Currently, they are working on the winterizing the buildings and snow plowing bids.

About 12-13 trees have been removed from the site after they fell, or were about to fall. Mr. Gentile said they will continue to remove the trees, but, the equipment is noisy and they want to respect the tenants.

There have been no security issues on the Island. A tenant reported problems with their washer and refrigerator. They will be replaced. Mr. Gentile noted that these are things they do on a regular basis. They are continuing to work on the access driveway design.

Mr. Zagrodzky asked Mr. Gentile if he had a spreadsheet detailing maintenance project estimates. He said it would be valuable to the Committee to know what is being spent. For next month's meeting, he requested a summary of what is being spent and what is coming up in terms of expenditures.

Mr. Gentile discussed the pool fencing and the road design. It was suggested that a work streams document be created that would include access, safety and security issues.

6. DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON A REQUEST TO APPROVE POOL FENCING

The Committee members discussed the quote for the pool fencing. The pool is non operational and there are problems with the equipment; however, there is water in the pool and the cover old and in poor condition.

Ms. Bora noted that if there is a pool and there is a tenant, then they need to have a fence, especially if the cover is iffy.

- ** MR. BURKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF POOL FENCING AS DISCUSSED**
- ** MR. PALEN SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

7. DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON A REQUEST TO APPROVE ROOF REPAIRS

Mr. Campanella reviewed the condition of the roof and said three companies looked at the roof and two submitted prices. He said he was comfortable moving ahead with J.P. Carroll Roofing.

- ** **MR. ADILETTA MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR ROOF REPAIRS AT THE STABLES BUILDING BY J. P. CARROLL ROOFING FOR A COST OF \$3,750.00**
- ** **MR. KOLAKOWSKI SECONDED**
- ** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

8. DISCUSS COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Mr. Zagrodzky said this is a topic of great interest to many people. They are trying to figure out a way to get information to the public. It was discussed asking some Committee members to take on communications and to think of ways to get information out about Great Island. It was noted that information about Great Island is on the Committee's page. However, they are looking for a couple of people to help Ms. O'Leary populate the page. The Town will continue to input the information. It was noted that the conversation will become very important when they start going in front of various boards.

9. DISCUSSION OF MATTERS RELATED TO THIS COMMITTEE

There are a number of issues that need to be discussed, such as if they are going to allow dogs on the property, dock access and if they are going to allow swimming. The Committee will also have to discuss if they are going to allow group gatherings, the procedure for that and if they are going to charge a fee. In addition, they have to think about enforcement. The Island remains closed to the public.

10. DISCUSSION OF MEETING SCHEDULE

The Committee will meet on the third Wednesday of the month. A meeting schedule will go out to everyone.

11. ADJOURN

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

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Great Island Advisory Committee
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