

To: Boathouse Hains Park Improvement Committee (BHPIC)

From: Old Lyme Parks & Recreation Commission

Date: June 4, 2015

Subject: Elimination of key design option for Boathouse Hains Park Improvement Project

The Old Lyme Parks & Recreation Commission (P&RC) is very concerned about the outcome of the BHPIC May 14th vote to eliminate from consideration any design option that would retain the expanded/renovated boathouse as a “storage facility” (it is currently a storage facility) in conjunction with expanded/renovated Hains Park public facilities that would be shared by both rowers and other users of Hains Park (Old Lyme residents).

Importantly, the BHPIC eliminated this option without any documented justification.

Elimination of this option ignores the P&RC Hains Park Master Plan concepts and design criteria provided to the BHPIC at their January through March meetings (March summary, attached). It also ignores the likelihood that this would have been the most cost-effective option to meet the needs of the rowing club while also providing the greatest benefit to the broader Old Lyme community – because it would avoid duplicating public facilities within a small Town park, and would avoid significant increases in construction costs through the triggering of expensive building codes changes to the Boathouse itself. Elimination of this option also ignores significant input provided to the BHPIC by the public through correspondence and public comments at BHPIC meetings.

Because the P&RC believes that this key option was inappropriately eliminated without adequate justification, the P&RC will require that any proposed plan put forward by the BHPIC include a side-by-side cost:benefit comparison of the proposed plan versus one that would:

- add additional storage area to the existing Boathouse and retain it as a “storage facility”
- place all “non-storage” rowing functions that would trigger expensive building code changes into a centrally-located structure that would allow key components (e.g.: ADA-compliant toilets, changing stalls, assembly space) to be shared by both rowers and the broader Old Lyme community.

This cost:benefit comparison must include consideration of the benefits/impacts to other Hains Park users and Old Lyme residents, and consideration of the P&RC Hains Park Master Plan concepts and design criteria submitted to the BHPIC.

Attachments:

- OL PR&C Hains Park Master Plan Update and Design Criteria – March 2015
- Town ordinance defining the duties of the Old Lyme Park and Recreation Commission