

To: Old Lyme Selectmen

Date: Nov 13, 2014

From: Old Lyme Parks & Recreation Commission *JLF*

Subject: Recommendations for Hains Park Master Plan and Boathouse/Hains Park Improvement Project

OL P&R respectfully requests that the Old Lyme Selectmen reconstitute the Boathouse/Hains Park Improvement Committee (BHPIC) to complete the development and finalization of the **Hains Park Master Plan**, and in that context, complete the design and construction of the **Boathouse Phase** of the Master Plan.

As you are aware, **OL P&R is responsible for the oversight of all Town Parks, including Hains Park**, therefore, it would be appropriate for OL P&R to take leadership roles in:

- Developing the Hains Park Master Plan, proactively seeking and incorporating broad community and stakeholder input
- Contributing to the design and implementation of the Boathouse/Hains Park Improvement Project Phase of that Master Plan.

Importantly, several members of OL P&R have a proven track-record of successfully completing Town-funded, as well as state-funded, master plans and construction projects, including:

- Development of the Town Woods Park Master Plan, for which broad stakeholder and community input was efficiently and proactively sought and incorporated - from *both* the Towns of Old Lyme *and* Lyme
- Construction of all three phases of Town Woods Park, involving a total of \$1,600,000 in CT STEAP grant funds
- Design and construction of the Bus Barn/Depot Project, which involved working closely with District 18.

Each of these projects was professionally and successfully completed on time and significantly under budget under the leadership of Bob Dunn, the current OL P&R Chairman.

To ensure that the Hains Park Master Plan and Boathouse Phase will meet the broadest possible needs of the community, District 18 (Boathouse Lessee) and Crew Teams, the Rowing Clubs, and Old Lyme taxpayers, OL P&R recommends that the OL Selectmen appoint to the reconstituted BHPIC, at a minimum:

- Three members of OL P&R: Chairman Bob Dunn, OL P&R, Director Don Bugbee, and John Flower, P&R Commissioner and OL Building Official. Don and John were also key contributors to several of the above projects.
- Three Rowing experts (ideally from the prior BHPIC), representing both District 18 athletics and the OLRA, to provide critical rowing expertise/input and context for prior BHPIC recommendations.
- One OL Board of Finance member, to facilitate communication with the full OL Board of Finance and to provide Town oversight of project finances.

We also respectfully request that OL P&R have the opportunity to review and comment upon any agreement between the Town and District 18 regarding the use of Hains Park, prior to agreement finalization.