

Village of Canton, New York

JOINT VILLAGE/TOWN BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes: April 27, 2022

Village Board Present:

Michael Dalton, Mayor
Beth Larrabee, Trustee
Klaus Proemm, Trustee

Carol Pynchon, Trustee
Anna Sorensen, Trustee

Town Board Present:

Mary Ann Ashley, Supervisor
Bob Santamoor, Councilman
John Taillon, Councilman

Bob Washo, Councilman
James Smith, Councilman

Others Present:

Sally Noble, Village Clerk
Gerald Ducharme, Village Attorney

Leigh Rodriguez, ED

ORDER OF BUSINESS: Town Supervisor Ashley opened the Special Meeting at 6:00pm via Zoom. Comments were submitted to the Mayor and/or Supervisor prior to the meeting by Herbert Bullock, Frank Palumbo, Tim Abplanalp and Mark McKenna.

- 1. MC Fibers John McAdoo Broadband Study Presentation** – the presentation was cancelled at the last minute. It will need to be rescheduled.
- 2. Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Grasse River Recreation Assessment NYS Consolidated Funding Application Discussion** – This application was submitted last year but was not funded. The question is do we want to reapply? Leigh was asked to speak about where we fell short with the application.

Leigh said it was basically to hire a consultant to look at our recreation facilities and how we might enhance them. To study the buildings to really dive in and see what's needed there for investment, an assessment of what we have. The biggest thing they told us was that we didn't get points for it being an implementation process. They didn't have anything bad to say about our application. The only other thing they talked about is that our local waterfront Program. Technically there is an additional step that we didn't take. We could get those points by just showing them that this is in progress. The deadline has not been announced yet but typically the end of July. The announcement is usually in December.

Trustee Pynchon said that comments we received today are not pertinent to this application. This application is for the inventory and assessment for recreation assets. We do have the idea that this will include not just Bend-in-the-river park and the pavilion it will look at different things. That's what this

is about the inventory and assessment. There is a whole separate application for Willow Island. That is a different project. It is simply a planning grant there is no amphitheater. It has been funded. There have been a lot of ideas posted in the paper that were people's ideas. Nothing is cast in stone. What we are hiring now with the grant is the first part. It will be funding for a consultant to come in do assessments on the island of the flood plan and all different things like what the feasibility is for putting any kind of a project there. It's important to remember is that it is not two separate things. It is not either or. The money right now is money for a plan.

Councilman Washo wanted to know if there is time to take a step back to take another look at this in a different way now in the Dept of State's mind. Leigh replied when we submitted the application, we intended to be some implementation as well. Lots has changed in the last few years so we are not able to implement as much as we hoped. Dept of State has said they encouraging us to apply for money this round for additional implementation at Willow Island.

Supervisor Ashley stated that she received some correspondence. She did send it to the two boards. Herb Bullock just handed his to her. She would like as part of the record that Frank Palumbo wasn't able to be here but he did send us his thoughts and pictures regarding the Bend-in-the-river park and the whole larger issue. Mark McKenna who is here also sent an email. Tim Abplanalp also sent an email.

Supervisor Ashley asked Mr. Bullock if he wanted to speak to his email. Mr. Bullock discussed his emailed concerns. There was Board discussion regarding Canton Island Park and the concepts that have been shared publicly. None of that has been decided. We have been having discussions since 2019. There has been a lot of public input.

Richard Grover disagreed that there has been public input. He recommends that the arrangement with Grasse River Heritage be reviewed and make sure the community concurs with it. Councilman Washo agreed with Mr. Grover.

Leigh stated that there was a lot of discussion and they have taken the lead on thinking how that island could be enhanced. A lot of people were involved not just them. They just like any other interested party in the community approached the municipalities with an idea and asked for their partnership. It was needed over a number of years. It didn't happen overnight but this is where we are now. They are part of the conversation; they are not the decision maker.

Mark McKenna read the email he submitted.

Councilman Washo asked what the overall budget was, \$80,000? No that is the match, 25%.

The discussions continued to clarify that there are 2 grants, one that has been awarded and one that will be applied for. There was public input in the awarded grant. There will be public input on the second application. There have been no final decisions made.

Leigh clarified that everything we are talking about is based on the Grasse River Waterfront Revitalization Plan. The first one was done in 2010, which means we got funding several years before that. The process of developing happened one to two years prior to that plan was adopted by the

municipalities which means they had a public hearing. It is a lengthy plan. We have a waterfront advisory committee that was established. That updated the revitalization plan in 2018. Again, there were public hearings and it was adopted by the municipalities. When we go and request funding everything requested ties back to that plan. Enhancements to the park are a stated goal. We applied for money to enhance Willow Island which includes Canton Island Park. That is what we have money to do. What we are doing now is hiring someone to look at the land, tell us what is feasible at that location. There's been interest expressed by the public to have a performance space to have better parking or reconfigured parking or perhaps a natural place for children to enjoy. There are a number of concepts that were brought up. Restrooms were also discussed.

We are now going through the process to determine how exactly to enhance that island. None of this can happen without public process.

Mayor Dalton clarified again no final decision has been made.

Supervisor Ashley said the question is do we want to resubmit that application? It was written that the town would sponsor it. The terms this time would be 85% grant funding with a 15% match.

Councilman Washo wants a recommendation from the recreation committee before the Board takes any action.

Trustee Sorensen said it seemed clear to her that we should be applying for money to facilitate the designation of our community as LWRP. That also benefits our application. She is supportive of an application.

3. New Municipal Building Funding Discussion - Mayor Dalton said we had a study done in 2018. We did a space study. We would need to bond for a new building. He contacted the Architectural firm that did the study. They could come back to the table to start to develop a bigger plan. Supervisor Ashley said she just wants to keep moving forward on this. There was discussion about the use of ARPA funds.

The Mayor will find out what the next step would be and how much the updated plan would be.

Executive Session – Trustee Pynchon made a motion to enter into executive session for purposes of Public Officers Law §105, the proposed acquisition of real property and employment of a particular person. at 7:05 PM, Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries. Councilman Smith made a motion for the Town of Canton, Councilman Santamoor seconded the motion for the Town. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:35PM, Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to adjourn the Village meeting at 7:36 PM. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passes.

Councilman Smith made a motion to come out of executive session for the Town at 8:06 PM, Councilman Washo seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

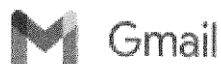
Councilman Taillon made the motion for the Town to adjourn at 8:06, seconded by Councilman Santamoor. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Noble
Village Clerk

4/27/22, 5:24 PM

Village Of Canton Mail - Amphitheater



Mary Ann Ashley <mashley@cantonny.us>

Amphitheater

1 message

Tim Abplanalp <tim.apple47@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 27, 2022 at 2:26 PM

To: Mary Ann Ashley <mashley@cantonny.gov>

Maryann,

As a concerned citizen of the town and village of Canton I want to voice my opinion regarding the location of the amphitheater. I know there is discussion of building the amphitheater on Willow Island but after asking many people what their preference would be the general consensus of those I spoke to felt that Bend In The River would be a much better location. There is plenty of parking and the amphitheater could be built into the hill overlooking the river. In addition Bend In the Bend River is easier to access as well as there would be very little traffic noise to detract from the entertainment.

Warm Regards,

Tim Abplanalp

bullockh

From: bullockh <bullockh@twcny.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 2:58 PM
To: Leigh Rodriguez (lrodriguez@cantonny.gov)
Cc: 'mashley@cantonny.gov'
Subject: revitalization grant monies

Hi Leigh,

Please forward my questions for tonight's meeting to the appropriate village and town officials.

a) Bend in the River Park: Can the following projects be considered?

1. Painting outside of Pavilion
2. Pathway lighting in the park
3. Outdoor covered bar-b-cue
4. Kitchen counter top inside the picnic shelter
5. Removal of brush along the riverbank
6. Removal of ash trees from the park

b) Willow Island Band Shell: Can you discuss the following considerations?

And can a public hearing be held regarding site determination and whether a better place might be Bend in the River Park, including the following considerations?

1. Better parking area for more cars
2. Better traffic patterns
3. Better bathroom facilities
4. Insulation from traffic noise
5. Preservation of existing trees and grassy areas at Willow Island

Thank you,

Herbert Bullock, village resident

4/27/22, 5:28 PM

Village Of Canton Mail - Local Waterfront Revitalization Program-Willow Island Park Renovation Project



Mary Ann Ashley <mashley@cantonny.us>

Local Waterfront Revitalization Program-Willow Island Park Renovation Project

5 messages

McKenna, Mark J CIV USARMY CENAN (USA) <Mark.J.McKenna@usace.army.mil>

Wed, Apr 27, 2022 at 12:45 PM

To: "mashley@cantonny.gov" <mashley@cantonny.gov>, "recdirector@cantonny.gov" <recdirector@cantonny.gov>
Cc: "dmckenna@twcny.rr.com" <dmckenna@twcny.rr.com>

Dear Maryanne, Meghan, and Board members,

I saw the Plan for Willow Island Park Renovation Project and heard this is being funded (\$300k) by the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Grasse River Recreation Assessment NYS Consolidated Funding. I as well as many residents have many concerns about this proposed plan.

The first concern is ingress and egress of vehicular traffic to the site from Route 11 (Main Street). It's a very busy thoroughfare for tractor trailers, cars buses. Did anyone do a traffic study, especially during peak hours. The second is pedestrian traffic crossing the Main St. from one island to the other, it's a very busy Street. And to put up a bandshell/pavilion, seating, parking and composting bathroom(s). This Island floods every Spring of the year. Also, the Village highway dept. dumps snow in Willow Island from their removal of snow banks in the winter time. Furthermore, since you plan to have bands and music in this park, did anyone perform a noise study to see how loud the current traffic is? Especially the tractor trailers using their jake brake down main street you can hear it from SUNY Canton and St. Lawrence University. Was there an Environmental assessment done? A better use of the funds is to Renovate Bend in the River Park on Lincoln St. you already have an existing parking lot and you already have outdoor bathrooms. You have a natural Amphitheater with the contour of the land, you can build you bandshell/pavilion and seating in the area. Also, there is no traffic noise and the grasse river flows through the park. This is a better alternative for listening to music along the river. Also, with the extra funds the Town and the Village can transform the current bathrooms at the Pavilion and bathrooms at Taylor Park into ADA compliant bathrooms for all people to use able and disabled alike. Thank you.

Mark McKenna

Volunteer Recreation Committee(member)

Mary Ann Ashley <mashley@cantonny.gov>

Wed, Apr 27, 2022 at 12:59 PM

To: "McKenna, Mark J CIV USARMY CENAN (USA)" <Mark.J.McKenna@usace.army.mil>

Cc: "recdirector@cantonny.gov" <recdirector@cantonny.gov>, "dmckenna@twcny.rr.com" <dmckenna@twcny.rr.com>, Mary Ann Ashley <mashley@cantonny.gov>

Good afternoon Mark,

Thank you for your email and continued efforts.

I will forward this to the Town Board, Village Board, Mayor Dalton, Village Clerk Sally Noble, Economic Developer Leigh Rodriguez and ED Assistant Jeni Reed. This will be entered into the record at tonight's joint board meeting.

Regards,

Mary Ann Ashley
Supervisor
Town of Canton
60 Main Street
Canton, New York. 13617
315-386-2962
mashley@cantonny.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

Mary Ann Ashley <mashley@cantonny.gov>
To: Dylan Barringer <dbarringer@cantonny.gov>

Wed, Apr 27, 2022 at 1:06 PM

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=397183b15c&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1731280728711087638&siml=msg-f%3A17312807287...> 1/2

4/27/22, 5:27 PM

Village Of Canton Mail - MeetingTonight



Mary Ann Ashley <mashley@cantonny.us>

MeetingTonight

6 messages

Frank Palumbo <fapjr21@gmail.com>
 To: Meghan Richardson <recdirector@cantonny.us>
 Cc: Mary Ann Ashley <mashley@cantonny.gov>

Wed, Apr 27, 2022 at 12:34 PM

Meghan,

I am unable to attend the meeting this evening as I must be in Watertown and will not be back until after 7:30pm. However, please know that my support of *Bend in the River Revitalization* is still a top priority. Meghan, your efforts need to receive the backing that has been expressed in our Advisory meetings since the very outset!! *Our Community and its Recreational Facilities seriously need to be Revitalized!*

Please share any of my ideas that may assist in getting some of the much needed attention focused on what will serve our youth and adults the best. The idea of Willow Island receiving this huge financial support being discussed, when volunteers are continually stepping up to improve Bend in River, makes little sense. Factors of concern are: Location, Traffic, Parking, Scenic Appearance (nearby empty structures), Safety of Bridge, Facilities, Sanitation-Geese Haven, Flooding, etc. Attention here will only serve to turn away future community hands-on-efforts in both Park areas!

The **Potential** that exists at Bend in the River and Taylor Park is truly outstanding. We need to have our **Vision** put onto the table and to be discussed productively and openly.

Also: **NYS Revitalization Funds** received in the past several years:throughout the Northern Region looks like this:

Take Rt 11 > Watertown, ~~-----?~~ Potsdam, Massena, Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake, Plattsburgh .

>> Straight through Canton each time?! >>

*Why are our obvious historic, recreational, business, artistic, entertainment, and athletic needs not being tended to?

Please share the *attached files* that offer ideas of how Bend in the River Park can be successfully enhanced so as to become the Center of countless Community Events. This would bring commerce, education, entertainment, and recreation to the Heart of Canton ~ "The St. Lawrence County Seat!"

Respectfully submitted,
 Frank Palumbo
 Reimagining Canton Recreation
 Advisory Committee Member

2 attachments

BendInRiver.Recldeas.pdf
 3287K

STAGE.REVITALIZATION22.pdf
 523K

Mary Ann Ashley <mashley@cantonny.gov>
 To: Frank Palumbo <fapjr21@gmail.com>
 Cc: Meghan Richardson <recdirector@cantonny.us>, Mary Ann Ashley <mashley@cantonny.gov>

Wed, Apr 27, 2022 at 12:48 PM

Good afternoon Frank,

Thank you for your email and your continued efforts on Reimagining Canton Recreation. It is sincerely appreciated.

I will forward your email to the Town Board, Village Board, Mayor Dalton, Village Clerk Sally Noble, Economic Developer Leigh Rodriguez and ED Assistant Jeni Reed. This will also become part of the record at our meeting tonight.

Hope all is well with you and your family.

Regards,