

RECREATION & COMMUNITY  
ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING

A G E N D A

TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE

September 10, 2013 - 5:00 P.M. – Council Chambers - Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA ADOPTION:

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1. Watermans Memorial
  - Review proposed concept plan for Robert Reed Park
2. Project Report Updates
3. Committee Member Comments

ADJOURN:

Next Meeting – October 8, 2013 or November 12, 2013 (Budget recommendations)



## STAFF REPORT

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To: Recreation and Community Enhancement Committee

Through: Robert G. Ritter, Town Manager

From: William Neville, Planning Director

Date: September 6, 2013

Subject: Chincoteague Waterman's Memorial

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- ❖ Review proposed addition of a Waterman's Memorial to the Robert Reed Waterfront Park Master Plan
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The Committee previously reviewed a 'ship's mast' memorial that is currently under construction at Mariners Point. Mr. Barry Abell will present his concept of a Waterman's Memorial at the Robert Reed Downtown Waterfront Park. Attached are several views of the Park Expansion area between the Library and the waterfront that may provide a suitable location.

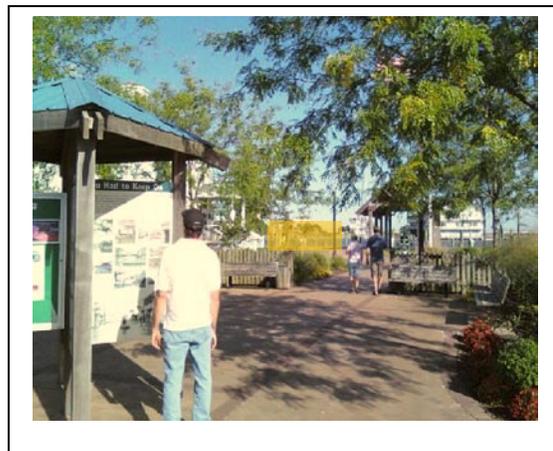
An example is provided from a similar memorial in Alaska that illustrates a wall that would be inscribed with the names of those lost at sea, with a surrounding area suitable for a visitor experience that captures views of the waterfront, commercial fishing boats and a possible brass sculpture. Mr. Abell discussed with Town Staff the advantages of the location immediately behind the Pavilion since it would have a sight line to both Main Street and Bridge Street.

The Committee should consider the area needed for this type of memorial, the height and dimension of landscape features such as the wall and sculpture, and the circulation of people and other activities within the Park. Main Street businesses have previously petitioned for maintaining as much parking as possible to support downtown activities. Library staff and the CCA have stated their concern for providing handicap access and event loading access behind the Library.

Mr. Abell requested support for this idea and direction from the Town at the last Council meeting. Before proceeding with design plans, the Committee may wish to prepare a recommendation to Town Council for amendment to the Robert Reed Park master plan.



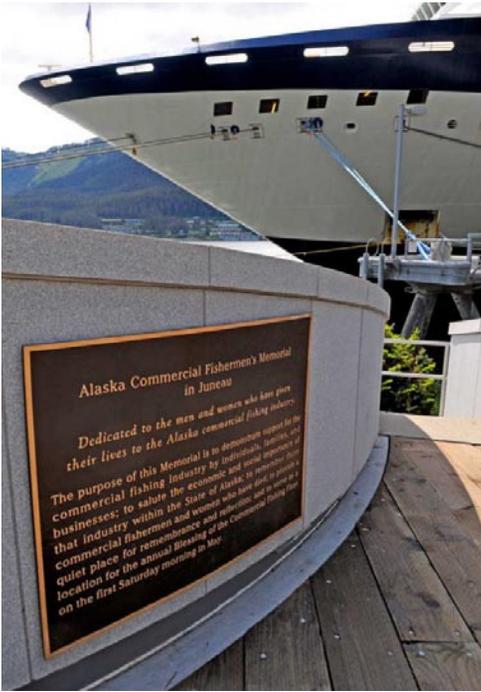
Possible  
Waterman's  
Memorial  
Location





Memorial Design by Jensen Yorba Lott Architects, Inc.

Concept for Discussion and Comparison



Dedication Plaque



Freestanding Memorial Wall (human scale)



Memorial symbol



Visitor experience



Bronze Sculpture







## MEMORANDUM

The Town of Chincoteague, Incorporated

To: Recreation and Community Enhancement Committee  
Through: Robert Ritter, Town Manager  
From: William Neville, Director of Planning  
Date: September 6, 2013  
Subject: Project Updates

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The status of ongoing projects is updated below for Committee review and discussion.

### Ocean Boulevard Extended

The small bridge/boardwalk to be constructed over Fowling Gut is nearly completed. The decking will be ordered next week with installation scheduled in October.

- Next Steps:
- Staff is working with property owners along Coach's Lane to obtain an easement for extension of the bike path to connect back to Maddox Boulevard
  - Continue working with USFWS to obtain grant funds for paving the trail

### CNWR Bike Trail Extension

FWS has completed the boardwalk bike trail connection to the Chincoteague Museum by extending the trail across the front of the Museum property to a new crosswalk location and connecting the Maddox Boulevard shoulder bike lane.

- Next Steps:
- Bike lane improvements along Maddox Boulevard from the Traffic Circle to AJ's Restaurant may be approved for construction through the remaining Sarbanes Grant funds.

### Jessie R. Watson Sr. Memorial Park

The Chincoteague Garden Club maintains the perennial garden project for the 2013 season

- Next Steps:
- Schedule Fall cleanup
  - Phase two improvements are on hold for additional funding or donations
  - Additional bench and bike rack proposed

## Mariners Point

Committee members have identified the overlook area at Curtis Merritt Harbor as the number one priority for planning future open space and recreational opportunities in the Town. Public safety, town operations, dredge spoils, additional parking, Mariners Memorial, and special event viewing have all been discussed.

- Next Steps:
- Mariners Memorial has been approved by Town Council. Barry Abell continues to coordinate construction activities.
  - Update master plan document showing the proposed improvements and the Mariners Memorial as needed

## Downtown Main Street/Robert Reed Park

The Main Street revitalization project, acquisition of Bridge Street right of way, purchase of additional land, and the construction of a fishing pier are all changes that need to be incorporated into the master plan for Robert Reed Downtown Park.

- Next Steps:
- Abandonment of Bridge Street and VDOT deed with agreement of adjacent landowners to allow Town maintenance of street access and parking.
  - Begin construction for east side of Main Street streetscape improvements
  - Incorporate suggestions from the Downtown Merchants and the Cultural Alliance regarding opportunities to improve and manage the Downtown Park and nearby parking areas
  - Incorporate proposed use of the Bridge Street right of way and the recent park expansion plan prepared for the DCR grant application.
  - **Incorporated concept for a Waterman's Memorial**
  - Prepare a Park Master Plan amendment that includes the new properties for Town Council approval.
  - Additional benches and performance stage proposed.
  - Prepare cost estimates and recommendations for the Town Budget process

## Interpretive Signs

The Committee considered a proposal last year to include interpretive displays at Chincoteague Veterans Memorial Park.

- Next Steps:
- Consider incorporating the research, design and manufacturing of these signs at the same time as the Robert Reed Downtown Park expansion area/Historic Bridge information kiosk.

### Hallie Whealton Smith Drive

The Town has received a Safe Routes to School construction grant to construct a bicycle shelter and a shared use trail between the Elementary and Combined Schools along Hallie Whealton Smith Drive.

- Next Steps:
- Consultant selection from 3 qualified RFQ submission completed. A fee proposal and VDOT contract documents are under review. Design work is expected to begin in September 2013.

### Chincoteague Veterans Memorial Park

As the most complete Town Park with a range of recreational use facilities, the focus continues to be on maintenance and completing minor improvements

- Next Steps:
- Repair of Hurricane Sandy storm damage is complete and tree stumps have been removed. New tree planting recommendations are needed.
  - New life rings have been installed on the pier
  - Drainage improvements around the playground, installation of new play surface mulch, removal of the tire swing and repair/replacement to current playground equipment is ongoing.
  - New playground equipment is needed.
  - Repairs to the skate park ramps have been approved by Council.
  - Future improvements are on hold for additional funding or donations
  - Look into adding more lighting at Fishing Pier

### Donald Leonard Park

The Leonard Family has completed Phase One improvements with the assistance of a landscape designer to recommend plantings and improvements to the Park. This location has been discussed as a possible location for installation of improved water access for a kayak launch. Town Council approved the location of a 'memorial boulder'.

- Next Steps:
- Refine park master plan (possible soft shoreline demonstration project)
  - Identify incremental improvements to be completed as a part of regular Town maintenance program

### Island Nature Trail

The Island Nature Trail includes approximately 1.2 miles of paved and unpaved trails located in preserved open space along Hallie Whealton Smith Drive. The paved trail surface has buckled and needs to be repaired and repaved. Hurricane Sandy caused wind and flood damage to numerous trees throughout the park. Mature pines have been stressed by the pine bark beetle.

- Next Steps:
- Review park master plan to determine if newly cleared areas provide an opportunity for additional open space uses and natural plantings.
  - Identify trail paving to be completed as a part of regular Town maintenance program, or pursue grant applications.

**Recreation and Community Enhancement  
Committee Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2013**

**Committee Members Present:**

John Jester, Chairman  
Terry Howard, Councilman  
Gene Wayne Taylor, Councilman  
Bob Conklin  
Nancy Lane

**Staff Present:**

Robert G. Ritter, Town Manager  
William Neville, Town Planner

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jester called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

**Agenda Adoption**

Councilman Terry Howard motioned, seconded by Mr. Bob Conklin to adopt the agenda. Unanimously approved.

**1. Bicycle Plan**

Town Planner Neville explained that the plan was revised to show the importance of the Maddox Boulevard from Deep Hole Road to the Traffic Circle project. The committee discussed the importance of no bicycles being allowed on the sidewalks in the Downtown area. They also stated the dangers of bikes on the road as well as the sidewalks on Maddox Boulevard. Ms. Nancy Lane stated the danger of road conditions such as holes in the road as well as the drains from Maddox Boulevard south to the Fire Department. Councilman Howard motioned, seconded by Ms. Nancy Lane to forward the changes to Council.

**2. Park Donation Policy**

Town Planner Neville discussed the policy. The committee discussed the donations and the possibility of tax exempt status. Mr. Bob Conklin asked about the prices of the items not being on the donation form. He was advised that donors would have to contact the Town Office for those amounts.

**3. Project Report Updates**

Chairman Jester stated the Town needed some information available for guests regarding parking and sightseeing in reference to the upcoming rocket launches from Wallops Island. He suggested getting in contact with the NASA public relations department and posting the information on the Town's website.

**Ocean Boulevard Extended**

Town Manager Ritter stated the Town is waiting for Mr. Barry Fisher to drive the test poles for the bridge crossing at Fowling Gut.

**Jessie R. Watson Sr. Memorial Park**

Ms. Nancy Lane stated that Watson Park is all planted and ready for the season.

### **Mariners Point**

The center pole has been set at Mariners Point for the Mariners Memorial. The committee discussed some benches being installed at that location. Chairman Jester stated that the Scouts would be making some benches for the area.

### **Downtown Main Street/ Robert Reed Park**

Town Manager Ritter stated the plans had been submitted to VDOT for the bidding for the fishing pier

Councilman Jester stated the possibility of a platform that could be used for performances.

### **Town Map-Points of Interest**

Town Planner Neville stated a map will be placed in the Downtown kiosk prior to the summer season. The walking and biking tour brochure will be printed as well.

### **Chincoteague Veterans Memorial Park**

Chairman Jester stated that no more memorials will be placed in the park. He would like to see something that mentions the names of the folks that donated their land to the Town to make the park possible.

Town Planner Neville stated the playground equipment has been inspected and new mulch has been placed in the playground area. He stated the need for some new playground equipment in the future.

## **4. Committee Member Comments**

Ms. Nancy Lane stated the theatre will be reopened on May 24. There is also a free movie being shown on May 26 at 7 pm to support Operation We Care. Also, on June 7 there will be another free movie.

Town Planner Neville reminded everyone that the Chincoteague Police Department will be having their annual Bike Rodeo on May18.

## **Adjourn**

Councilman Terry Howard motioned, seconded by Mr. Bob Conklin to adjourn the meeting.