

SIMM COMMITTEE  
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TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

**Schenck's Island Merwin Meadows Special Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**January 22, 2020 at 6:00 pm**

Attendance – Susan DiLoreto, Eric Fanwick, Farah Masani, Brian Nunes, John Priest.

Absent Excused – Peter Gaboriault, Jade Hobson, Kim Purcell, Steve Pierce (Parks and Recreation Director).

Others in Attendance – Mike Conklin (Director of Environmental Affairs), Sarah Gioffre (First Selectman's Rep), Lynne Vanderslice (First Selectwoman), member of public.

I. Call to Order.

Susan DiLoreto called the meeting called to order at 6:10 pm.

II. Town Staff to present five year budgets/plans for Schenck's Island and Merwin Meadows.

Mike Conklin presented Year 1 and Year 2-3 priorities for Schenck's Island and Merwin Meadows as reviewed/determined by Town staff. Priorities document attached.

Priorities and potential funding sources include:

**Year 1**

**Schenck's Island**

- Lawn Improvements - town funding
- Performance Space - private funding
- Park Entry Improvements - town funding
- Managed Meadow Area - town funding

**Merwin Meadows**

- Bathhouse Improvements - town funding
- Storage Yard Improvements - town funding

## Year 2-3

### Schenck's Island

- Trails - town funding
- Nature Themed Free Play Area - private funding
- Meadow Observation Tower - private funding

### Merwin Meadows

- Park Entry Plaza Improvements (Year 2) – town funding
- Playground Improvements (Year 2) - private funding
- Pickleball Court (Year 2-3) – private funding
- Parks and Grounds Storage Yard Improvements (Year 3) – All town storage needs being reviewed by Wilton DPW/Facilities.

Mike Conklin met with NRVT representative to discuss where NRVT would run through Schenck's Island. It will most likely run along existing grass path at Schenck's (path closest to river) and would remain as a mowed, grass path. NRVT is looking into potential signage to mark the route.

Parks and Recreation Department was concerned with proposed water play area due to required, on-going maintenance. Town staff to look at potential lower cost, lower maintenance options.

### III. Discussion of concept plans and recommendation to Board of Selectmen.

Eric Fanwick made a motion to recommend the Merwin Meadows and Schenck's Island concept plans as presented by Mike Conklin to the Board of Selectmen. Motion was seconded by John Priest and carried 5-0-0.

### IV. Public Comment

Donna Merrill, Executive Director of the Land Trust, thanked the SIMM Committee for its work and asked what the Land Trust might be able to contribute to the project at Schenck's. Committee discussed ideas including: continue invasive removal along River Road into section owned by Land Trust, educational signage, educational programming around vernal pool, bat boxes, or bird/owl boxes.

### V. Adjourn.

Susan DiLoreto made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:30 pm. Motion was seconded by Farah Masani and carried 5-0-0.

## Priorities (12 month)

### Schenck's Island

- Lawn Improvements
  - Upgrade and expand the lawn that's already been created.
- Performance Space
  - Performance stage
  - Electrical service
  - Landscaping
- Park Entry Improvements
  - Enlarged parking area
  - Electrical service
  - Lighting
- Managed Meadow Area
  - Educational signage and bird boxes

### Merwin Meadows

- Bathhouse Improvements
  - Bathroom upgrades
- Storage Yard Improvements
  - Screen fencing

## Priorities (Year 2-3)

### Schenck's Island

- Trails
  - Soft Trail Improvements
  - Benches
- Nature Themed Free Play Area
- Meadow Observation Tower

### Merwin Meadows

- Park Entry Plaza Improvements (Year 2)
  - Welcome station/guard booth
  - Signage & Landscaping
- Playground Improvements (Year 2)
  - Play equipment
  - Fencing
- Pickleball Court
  - One post tension concrete court
  - Bench
- Parks and Grounds Storage Yard Improvements (Year 3)
  - Open Air Storage (All Town storage needs being reviewed by DPW/Facilities)