

Town of Lyme
12175 NYS Route 12E
Chaumont, NY 13622
March 7, 2025
Work Session Meeting 1:00 p.m.

A Work Session meeting of the Town Board of Lyme, County of Jefferson and the State of New York was held at 12175 NYS Route 12E at 1:00 P.M., on the 7th day of March 2025.

Call to Order:

Deputy Supervisor Donovan called the Work Session Meeting for formulating a plan for Veterans Memorial Park and Bicentennial Park to order at 1:00 P.M.

Those present included Deputy Supervisor Donovan, Councilmember Farrell, Councilmember Bourquin, Councilmember Gosier, Jennifer Kingsley, Heather Lipczynski, Judi Bates, Gregor Smith, Tim Maloney, Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer, Rebecca Freeland, Tom Richter, Robin Grovesteen, Greg Hoppel

Those absent include Supervisor Millington.

Deputy Supervisor Donovan opened the meeting explaining the reason for the work session was to discuss funding for Bicentennial Park and talk about considering changing over the Veteran's Park.

From looking over the information on file, the Bicentennial Park has been in the works since 2019, it's been in the works for quite a while.

December 10, 2024 Tom Donovan, Don Bourquin, Pat Weston, Clerk to Supervisor, met with Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer, to discuss the Bicentennial Park and moving forward to hopefully start in the spring. Pat discussed what was needed to shore up the shore line. Pat has material, estimates, and drawings to complete this part of project.

During the meeting, Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer, suggested contact LPAC to get their input on what they need and the type of stage they are looking for. Hartley, suggested that she could write up an email to send to LPAC. That was agreed upon, and an email was written for Deputy Supervisor Donovan to approve and forward to LPAC.

LPAC responded with a letter with what they would like to see built at the Bicentennial Park.

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Tom received an email from Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer, BCA Architects & Engineers, regarding moving the Bicentennial Park grant of \$125,000 to be used to complete the Veterans Park. The suggestion was to finish this project and reapply down the road for a grant to do the Bicentennial Park. This is when the decision was made to hold a public work session.

Deputy Supervisor Donovan: Deputy Supervisor's personal opinion is that the project has been in the works for so many years, and feels that the funding should stay with Bicentennial Park.

Take into consideration the Village beach is also down in the same area. We have a summer rec. program that is utilized by the kids and when it starts raining the kids can stay right there, instead of going across to the fire department. People can enjoy picnics, the beach, LPAC has concerts already set up for this year.

Councilmember Gosier: It is essential that the grant money be used for Bicentennial Park. LPAC has proven to have a large response from the community, anywhere from 50-200 people attend during the season.

The summer rec program is highly successful and has witnessed as many as 50+ children participating. The existing pavilion at the Village Beach is a safety concern that she has, it is approx. 30 inches off the ground and no railing, it is not large enough to house all the children on it if it starts to rain, the Bicentennial Pavilion could be a temporary shelter.

Building a pavilion at Bicentennial Park would have multiple uses, LPAC can hold their concerts, and the community can use it for picnics and for many other uses with the beach next to it.

The grant money is also to be used for the securing the shoreline, from being washed out. She would also like to see a fence be installed along the edge of the shoreline that drops off.

Pat has put time into plans and working up cost.

The Veterans Park is a lovely park, but has too many draw backs at this time, there is not enough parking and parking on the street is not an option, it is dangerous. There are no trees for shelter or shade.

Councilmember Farrell: Fully agrees that the grant money should stay where it was initially intended for, at the Bicentennial Park. He felt it would be utilized more if there was some sort of protection there, for concerts, the summer rec program, enjoy the beach, picnic, it would be a better fit.

He agrees that there is a need to stabilize the property, and is great for events and utilized by the community.

Deputy Supervisor Donovan: There is nothing stopping us when the opportunity is available to apply for future grants for the Veterans Park.

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Councilmember Gosier: Stated that 3 congress members have undedicated funds available and could be pursued for compatible projects at the Veterans Park.

Councilmember Farrell: He agreed to apply for future grants for the Veterans Park.

Councilmember Bourquin: He feels that the money could be used for both parks.

The Addie Jenne grant does not have to be dedicated to the Bicentennial Park.

Robin Grovesteen: She agreed that it does not have to be dedicated, however, it was intended for the Bicentennial Park, they have all the files, pictures, drawings, etc.

Council Member Bourquin: He felt that the shoreline does not need to extensive work, the water levels do not go up that high, and unless we get flooding like we did back in 2019, we do not have to spend 10's of thousands of dollars. He is not saying not to spend any money, it just does not need much work at this time.

As far as the Pavilion to get the kids out of the weather, it does not have sides on it, and it won't be that much protection.

The Veterans Park has dockage and there is supposed to be a handicapped dock for Kayaks. And additional funds will be needed to meet requirements.

The Redi Program would like to do the ribbon cutting, however, as long as the kayak dock is on the premises, they won't be able to do it, due to the Kayak handicapped dock does not meet specs, it will cost approx... \$17,000.

We are being told that the Town will need to buy three sections to level the dock.

Bourquin asked the BCA group, why it wasn't done correctly to begin with?

BCA Architects & Engineers:

Gregor Smith: He went back through correspondence with the vendor, Easy Dock system.

The dock that was installed is an Easy Dock system vs aluminum structure marine system, the request was made that they be compatible and that they transition between the two, however, the specs that were provided did not meet that transition.

What they provided is compatible between the two, they connect to each other, and the specs that were provided do not meet the transition, so they do not work together.

They do not sit level. The contractor installed it on a lower bolt position, a couple of inches too low, making it so it cannot connect together. The dock sits lower than required.

This causes the dock to be unusable for a person in a wheelchair.

An Easy Dock, it is set up like Legos, and the sections connect and stick together,

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When these sections are level, a person in a wheelchair can turn around on the connecting dock and then lower into their kayak.

He mentioned a couple of alternatives, including one that could move the dock to another location.

Gregor Smith agreed that Redi would like to schedule the ribbon cutting, however, the kayak dock cannot be on premise, it does not meet ADA.

Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer: There are compatible advantages for both parks and they should be funded. What Gregor and she are here today for is how to get funding money for these projects.

I think when you look at a project, you have to work backwards from the project, and how do you get funding from start to finish.

You will never get funding for half a park, just like you will never get funding for half a building, there needs to be a completion.

That money should be spent on a project that is really hard or impossible to grant money for. That's for the odds and ends here and there, that's for upgrades, that's things that add value and then you go forth and submit a full fledged, fully formatted application from the ground up.

Point is The Bicentennial Park, is an "untouched" park, adjacent to the Village of Chaumont beach, should be in a collateral application form.

The Town of Lyme and the Village of Chaumont, should do a joint application for a collective space and should be viewed as that.

That's a good view of our time and resources, right? There is park money in the budget, and money for park assistance. What should that space look like?

What's missing from all of these conversations are where's the public's input on what all of these parks should be?

What does the community want these park spaces to be? We should do some level of engagement, some open house, and some conversation about what are the usage of these spaces.

What are the people looking to do, are they looking for kayaking, looking for picnic areas, whatever.

We should be utilizing the parks for what they have already have and what they have in them. The Town just spent a lot of time, energy, resources to get Veterans Park up and running that has the amenities that we are looking for at Bicentennial Park.

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It has ample parking, not only in the designated area, but also up and down the street. There are public bathrooms, the town just spent a lot of time and resources for.

This would be the first summer that the Park would not be under construction, what is the plan for this space, is it events, and concerts, birthday parties, weddings, what is the vision for that space.

Should be some thought behind it before you throw it over here. It's a good start to the conversation.

Councilmember Gosier: She is aware that people park on the road, it is not a safe, it is a hazard.

Robin Grovesteen: A whole lot is missing from this conversation. We spent many years trying to get Bicentennial Park to happen.

The LPAC people raising their own money for events in this town, they are going all the way to Rochester with vans to get items donated for a stage. They have a beautiful venue there, it has proven itself, and splitting the \$125,000 between the two places, I think, is the worse use of \$125,000.

Mr. Bourquin has even marked out where the block house would go, not to mention the effort that went into it. There is so many people working on this project, mapping out entry and exit to the park, ground penetrating radar, members of the board over the last 6 years. It was planned that it would be a multipurpose park.

FEMA is looking at the shoreline, it's not just a little bit of erosion. She has pictures to show.

Millions of dollars have been used toward the Veterans Park, nothing has been spent on the Bicentennial Park. Let the contractor fix the dock. Agrees that the community should be asked what they want.

Greg Hoppel: The Town hired an engineer to oversee the Veterans Park, so apparently the project was not designed correctly for the kayak launch or the oversight was not built to the specs. My question is why is the Town considering spending the extra money instead of going back to the engineer firm and say you are liable, make it right?

Jennifer Kingsley: Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer was asked about the board hiring her to work on the Bicentennial Park for up to \$10,000, it is now a year later, and now you are coming to the board and saying that you feel that it's not a good idea, why didn't you say that it wasn't a good idea last year when you were hired? Have you been paid and what have you done so far on it?

Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer: that was in general, and before she unpacked what the grant was. She made several calls to NYS to better understand what was needed by the Town, what the project actually was.

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Councilmember Bourquin: stated that she has not been paid anything and she now works for another group and was out on medical leave.

Councilmember Gosier: The LPAC held an event that had over 200 people attended. The enjoyment for the people attending was astounding, they have brought a level of culture to the Lyme that we have never had before.

She feels that the first priority should be to take care of Bicentennial Park. The money is there, if we use it somewhere else, it is not guaranteed that they would receive another grant, and if so, it could be years before we received it.

Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer:

She does not disagree, however, she does not feel that the \$125,000 will not finish the Bicentennial Park.

Choose wisely, think about the obligations, there are other opportunities that will be available for the park.

She asked to have it in the minutes that she nor Gregor are making money on this, she is a concerned resident and cares about the park.

Judi Bates: The LPAC board had a discussion before coming to today's work session, regardless what the board does, they will stay at Bicentennial Park.

Veterans Park does not have shade, Bicentennial Park has shade, if it sprinkles they do not have to cover the equipment, people sit under the trees, kids can play and run freely and go to the beach. The Sunsets are beautiful, the sun is not in their eyes. The park is big enough for small and large gatherings.

The fire departments take turns helping with food, they have an easy entry and exit.

Pat Weston: was asked by Councilmember Farrell, what his opinion was regarding working on the park? His feelings were to use the \$125,000 for the Bicentennial Park, the money is there for the project. Move forward and finish the project.

Deputy Supervisor Donovan:

Stated that he has been looking and getting quotes on pavilions, the prices will not include the cost of cement or site work.

He agreed that it was a good idea to ask the community what they would like the Town board to do.

He ended the meeting, we have a plan in place to move forward, using surveys to the public using several ways to get the information out to the public, such as survey monkey, surveys put out at the Library, Post Office and other public plan.

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Adjournment:

Resolution 2025-40: Councilmember Gosier made a motion to adjourn at 2:18 p.m.; Councilmember Farrell 2nd, all in favor and the motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Jackson

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Clerk to the Supervisor