

Village Board Workshop 6-24-2024

Boathouse at Commissary Park
Rowing as a Recreational Option in
Brockport



INTRODUCTION

Mayor
Blackman

Rowing in
Brockport



Workshop Roadmap

Background

Funding Sources

Project
Description

Boathouse
Operations

Brockport
Community
Rowing Club
Statements

Other Invited
Guests /
Statements

Questions not
answered in the
presentation

The Big Picture

The Beginning

- In 2013 a 12K rowing (sculling) regatta (race) called the Village-to-Village Challenge took place at our canal opening celebration, Low Bridge High Water.
 - Organized by John Bernfeld, UofR and Deborah Adams, Genesee Rowing Club
 - The race went from Spencerport to Brockport.
 - Due to the unavailability of a floating dock after 2014 the race was cancelled in 2015 and has not been held since.
- Bernfeld urged Brockport to consider bringing rowing to the Village:
 - Our location on the Erie Canal and the existence of a 2000m straight stretch of canal (from the guard gate westward) would be perfect for hosting rowing regattas.
 - He donated a rowing shell and a launch boat to Brockport and wrote a letter of support for initial grant applications.

Interest in Community Rowing: 2013-2015



There was considerable interest from community members in and around Brockport.

The Village hosted several guest speakers from other rowing clubs to discuss starting a rowing club and building a boathouse.

In 2015 the search for funding began.

Funding - Grants

- Canal Corporation Canalway Grant Award #1: \$75,000
 - Funded construction of 68' floating dock (completed 2019)*built with volunteer hours
 - Due to the time lapse until the location was secured this grant was partially returned in order to re-award the village with grant #2
- DASNY (Dormitory Authority of NYS): \$50,000
- BISCO Donation: \$9,000
- Private Donor: \$1,000
- Stoneyard Donations: \$12,274
- Canal Corporation Canalway Grant Award #2: \$150,000

*Grant preparation costs a part of regular retainer/quarterly fee to grant writing firm. Costs are not by project.



Funding – In-Kind Contributions

- Material supplies will be purchased with grant funds and donations
- DPW will provide in-kind labor through these tasks:
 - Clearing and leveling the land
 - Pouring a cement pad
 - Stubbing out rough plumbing and electrical
- Volunteer labor will be used for interior finishes. Volunteer labor has a monetary value and is recognized by the Dept. of Labor as in-kind contribution.
 - Per Independent Sector and the University of Maryland Do Good Institute, the 2023 rates are:
National average \$33.49 per hour NYS rate \$37.29 per hour



Location

Discussions with SUNY Brockport for a location at Commissary Park took place.

Oct. 2016 – Jan. 2018

SUNY filed request to transfer property of 0.192 acres with NYS Office of General Services July 2021 for \$1

July 2021

Dec. 2017

Village granted a revocable permit to construct a floating dock

Jan. 2023

Transfer of property completed with Monroe County registration January 2023. Registration cost \$322.

Boathouse – Structure/Logistics

- The project has evolved with time.
- 46' wide x 80' long x 14' deep
 - Post Frame Building 5/12 roof pitch
- RFP forthcoming to accept construction bids / no volunteer hours
- Parking – Per SUNY Parking Services
 - Free after commencement through mid-August
 - Free on weekends all year long
 - Metered spaces available through ParkMobile for \$1/hr (during school year)





Programming: BCRC

An organization needed to be created to offer and manage rowing opportunities.

Met with area rowing clubs GRC, RBC, RiCR, Pittsford Crew

June 2017 – Brockport Community Rowing Club (BCRC) formed

January 2018 – BCRC incorporated as a 501 c7

- Board members: Cathy Houston-Wilson, Archie Kutz, Marleen Cain, Margaret Blackman, Erica Linden, Jim Martin
- Ben DiMatteo, Heidi Bryne
- Donation of equipment from other clubs including rowing shells (boats)

Boathouse Operations

- We will follow existing practices of other publicly owned boathouses
 - Monroe County owned boathouse in Genesee Valley Park /MOA with Genesee Rowing Club
- MOA will be between the village and BCRC
- BCRC will have to hold insurance, have a maintenance agreement, and offer a number of free programs to the public
- Village will retain ownership of structure and land
- Village will carry property liability insurance
- No other MOAs have been considered at this time, including Camp Abilities. These will come after the boathouse is built and programming is extended.
- It will be closed in the winter when the canal is drained. Utilities will be paid by the Club via the MOA. Electric will be a part of the village solar array.

Interest in Community Rowing - 2024

Community members at large in Brockport, Sweden, Clarkson, Hamlin, and Holley



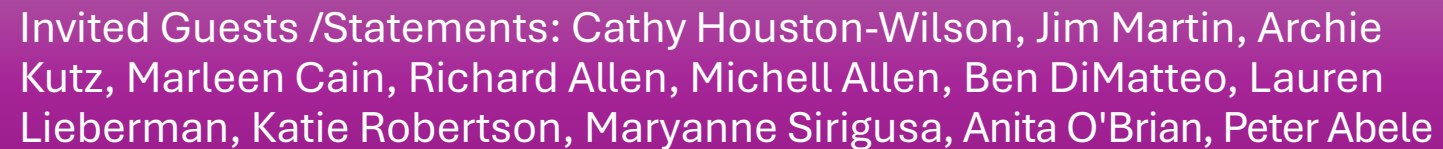
SUNY Brockport, Brockport Central School District



Rochester Accessible Adventures, Erie Canal Boat Co.



Invited Guests /Statements: Cathy Houston-Wilson, Jim Martin, Archie Kutz, Marleen Cain, Richard Allen, Michell Allen, Ben DiMatteo, Lauren Lieberman, Katie Robertson, Maryanne Sirigusa, Anita O'Brian, Peter Abele



Rowing Club Basics

- Financially self-sustaining organization
- Membership fee
- Fee based classes for non-members
- Free offerings for community based on MOA with the village – for example, Learn to Row Sessions
- All ages, abilities, and adaptive needs welcome
- Fee structures TBD as Club reactivates with boathouse progress





Remaining Questions Submitted

- Referendum – this did not require a referendum, it isn't a local law or a bond, it is a project 3 different village board configurations approved over the course of the project planning & funding applications
- 168 Holley Street – no relationship to the boathouse, not village property.
- Expense for designs from Architect Dave Strabel –
 - \$615 for the ramp/dock
 - \$3,385.50 for boathouse designs

Reimagine the Canals Destination Brockport

- The Reimagine the Canals Pedestrian Bridge is underway at the guard gate adjacent to Commissary Park. NYS and the Ralph Wilson Foundation took the boathouse plans into consideration when awarding Brockport this iconic structure.
- The purpose of this project is to create a destination and expand the reasons why people come to Brockport.
- The design of the pedestrian bridge purposefully includes a viewing platform for rowing competitions (regattas).



The Big Picture

- This is about **Brockport's future**, seizing the Erie Canal, an underutilized asset, in our midst.
- It's about bringing rowing, a recreational activity and team sport, to a **wide range of ages and abilities** in a community that has not had this opportunity before.
- It's about **quality of life**, building teamwork and enjoying the serenity of being on the water.
- It has **economic benefits** – perfectly situated for hosting regattas. Regattas bring hundreds of people, both participants and viewers, to a community.



Boathouse –Potential for Canal Recreation Hub

- Funders of Brockport's future, including NYS, the Ralph Wilson Foundation, and the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council view the boathouse and rowing as an asset to Brockport.
- The Boathouse will provide valuable links to a host of educational and professional opportunities.
 - For example: therapeutic recreation, social work, tourism, marketing, KSSPE (Kinesiology, Sports Studies, and Physical Education)
 - On the Canals programming success is the tip of what can be done
 - 2023: 258 participants / 166 from outside 14420 zip code or 64%
- **The water brings people to Brockport.** Using the canal as a second Main Street is vital to the **investment and development of our community.**

