Chairman Bill Drake called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

In attendance: Committee members Nick Macri, Liz Eckert, Sue Snyder, Rich Ernye and Bill Drake.

Project management team members: Joe Siciliano, Alan Monelli, Steve O’Hurley

SLAM Collaborative: Rick Bouchard

Public and RTM: Roz Nicastro, Lucia Jansen, Dean Gamanos, Leslie Yager, Bill Kelly, Syl Pecora Sr., Don Sylvester, Karen Popp, Alex Popp, David Wold, Richard Nemetz, Clare Kilgallen, JoAnn Messina, Joe Kantorski, Molly Saleeby

1. Consideration of motion offered by the representative of the Byram Veterans to dissolve this Committee and create new Committee with representation from ballplayers, McKinney Terrace residents, RTM D 3 and D 4, others

Mr. Drake indicated that with only five members present the Committee lacked a quorum and therefore would take no votes. He indicated he received a proposed motion the previous evening by email from Liz Wold. He noted her proposed motion was inadmissible because the items on the agenda had been
set earlier in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act which required
the agenda to be established 24 hours before the meeting, and because the
proposed motion was not from a Committee member. Mr. Macri made the
following motion, which was seconded by Ms. Eckert: “That the current Rink
User Committee For Design and Planning be dissolved and a new committee
be formed called the Eugene Merlot Memorial Park Committee For Design and
Planning with a more balanced representation to include officers of the BVA
BNA or their designate, representatives from the Greenwich Baseball
Community, RTM District 3 & 4, residents of McKinney Terrace.”

Mr. Drake read the following email from Town Attorney Barbara Schellenberg:

Bill, As a follow-up to our recent telephone conversation, I am confirming that I
do not think the Skating Rink Committee has the authority to dissolve itself and
form a new committee. The Office of the First Selectman created the Skating
Rink Committee with specific goals and tasks to accomplish, which do not
include the power to dissolve. Accordingly, I believe only the Office of the First
Selectman has that authority.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Best, Barbara

Discussion ensued.

2. Mr. Drake then made the following motion, seconded by Ms. Snyder: “This
Committee shall listen to and take into consideration comments and
suggestions by all parties, including ballplayers, McKinney Terrace
residents, RTM D 3 and D4.”

Discussion ensued.

3. Consideration of options A-E previously presented by SLAM

Mr. Drake summarized the Committee’s observations in the previous meeting:
Since Options C, D and E would require a longer utility run to the west side of the
site which was estimated to cost $1,100,000 more than Options A and B placing
the rink on the east side of the site, those three Options were not preferred. Mr. Parisi, the Babe Ruth baseball director and frequent user of Strazza Field indicated that the field orientation in Option A was preferable to B. Mr. Bouchard made comments and displayed Option A and other slides. Discussion ensued.

4. Mr. Monelli indicated a preliminary schedule/calendar for construction and for operation of Rink and Strazza Field will be created.

5. A Zoom meeting with Byram Neighborhood Association is planned for July 26 at 7 pm.

6. Scheduled future meetings:
   a. Byram Veterans – possible dates: July 22 or 29, or August 10, 11, 12, 16, 18, 19
   b. RTM District 3 - October 21 7:30 p.m.
   c. RTM District 4 – September 22 8 p.m.

7. Public comments

Mr. Nemetz suggested that the present rink be fixed, and Strazza Field not be improved.

Mr. Kelly stated the Committee was not representative and recommended the Committee be dissolved and re-created.

Ms. Saleeby requested the cost to replace the current rink on its present footprint and a comparison of that cost to Option A.

Mr. Sylvester asked to keep the rink where it is and stated that the 13-acre site is designated parkland.

Mr. Kantorski asked for cost estimates of the Options.

Mr. Popp asked to rebuild the current rink and improve the Memorial Park. He suggested putting the rink elsewhere, such as the Island Beach parking lot.

Ms. Messina asked how many mature trees will come down.
Ms. Kilgallen indicated that similar to New Lebanon School, the design and planning stage has been underway and takes time for the various options to be understood and considered.

Mr. Gamanos asked if the construction requires 15 months.

Ms. Jansen indicated that the Committee was not representative and indicated that winter-season rinks do not need air conditioning.

Mr. Wold asked to see SLAM’s “winning” bid in the RFQL in September 2020.

Mr. Pecora asked for formal designation of the Morlot Park among the Town’s parks. Mr. Drake agreed and committed to undertake this.

Ms. Nicastro asked some questions of Mr. Monelli.

Discussion ensued among the public, the Committee and Mr. Bouchard.

8. The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.