Waterways Management Committee Minutes 1.2.19
Falmouth Harbormaster’s Office

Present: Chuck Eastman, Gregg Fraser, Arthur Hawkes, Kevin King, Mike Kinney, Dan Shearer, Jeff Thomas; Recording Secretary Barbara Campbell
Absent: Chuck Martinsen
Guests: Lisa Cavanaugh, Chris Dunn, John Elder, Stan Lincoln, Glenn Schlager, Peter Walsh

List of Documents presented at the meeting: Minutes from 12.5.18 meeting, agenda from 1.2.19 meeting, email from T Varnum Philbrook of Philbrook Engineering dated 12.31.18, and a Woods Hole Group Shellfish Survey submitted by John Elder.

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes
There were two corrections to the 12.15.18 minutes: Lisa Cavanaugh’s name was spelled incorrectly and her statement under Public Comments was amended as: Guest Lisa Cavanaugh asked if the Eel River project could be expedited in any way as the Menauhant shoreline was especially affected by erosion. Approval of the minutes with the amendments was unanimous.

Massworks dredge update – pre-dredge survey results
Eel River Extension cubic yardage is approx... 7,000. Therefore, we will dredge to 5’ with the required 1’ overdraft. Unlikely the Falmouth Inner portion of this grant will take place as the TOY starts on 1/14. The Harbormaster is attempting to get an extension on the Massworks grant, however, the TOY’s will still be in place. If we have to request a TOY waiver it would count against other requests for Green Pond and Great Pond this spring.

County Dredge Program Update
The county supervisor is retiring very soon and the county is reviewing applications but there still are not enough personnel to operate the two dredgers. In addition, the county has committed to purchasing a third dredge – but it still requires a staff. Mr. Fraser said he worked with the DPW who were very helpful and spent two days unloading 5-ton bundles of pipe delivered for the county. The DPW also spent a few days assisting with the pipe fuser project as the pipe pieces were being put together.

Simpson’s Landing repair update
Mr. Fraser said the crew hit a very large obstruction made of concrete or granite resulting in three sections of sheeting that can’t be driven below the mud line. They currently need a new plan to proceed and are meeting with Holmes and McGrath and the Harbormaster’s Office this week. Philbrook Engineering is concerned about structural integrity if the entire object must be removed, and there is no money at this time for an entirely new installation.
Public Comment
Peter Walsh asked if Perch Pond channel could be opened for more moorings. Mr. Fraser said he has no plans to permit additional moorings in Perch Pond. The town agreed with the Army Corps of Engineers during a past dredging not to install additional moorings there because the dredging was primarily for water quality not navigation. Mr. Walsh wondered if the DEP could take a stand on this. Mr. Fraser said he had the option of putting new moorings in Great Pond, but there is very limited access to the moorings unless you owned property there.

Lisa Cavanaugh asked about placing moorings in Eel River. Mr. Fraser said he did not want to add more moorings there because we don’t know the depth of the channel. He said larger boats are trapped there and only boats with a very shallow draft could work. Additionally, we can’t keep going back to the same places to dredge, and adding more moorings creates more problems if we can’t keep the channels open.

She also asked if private funds paid for dredging could the sand be deposited on private property. As a general rule, if public resources are used to pay for dredging then the deposits go on town property open to everyone. If private disposal is necessary, then the DEP typically would require the land owners to agree to a permanent easement allowing for public access to the area the sand is placed on.

Glenn Schlager said the Eel River project is going slowly. Once he meets again with John Ramsey from Applied Coastal, they can get the study going and move from there.

John Elder of the Waquoit Bay Club had a survey done by the Woods Hole Group of the shellfish population to see if the area could be dredged and to determine the best way to deal with shoaling the middle channel where Little River intersects Waquoit Channel. There were three questions: what is the depth constraint in the high traffic area; what was the water draft in the survey sample versus charting; and would this just be maintenance or an independent project. There were ten sampling stations and they discovered that there was not viable shellfish activity at the time of the study. The depth was three to four feet in the channel, which historically had been six to seven. At this point in the report, Mr. Fraser asked if we could place this item on the agenda for the next meeting as many others might be interested in the discussion and we did not want to violate the Open Meeting Law.

Member Comments
Mr. Fraser told Mr. Eastman that they were still waiting for the DEP to approve the West Falmouth floats.
The meeting ended at 7:45.

The next meeting is February 6, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Campbell, Recording Secretary.