**Waterways Management Committee Minutes 3.6.19**

**Falmouth Harbormaster’s Office**

**Present:** Chuck Eastman, Gregg Fraser, Kevin King, Mike Kinney, Jeff Thomas; Recording Secretary Barbara Campbell  
**Absent:** Arthur Hawkes, Chuck Martinsen, Dan Shearer  
**Guests:** Cam Dawson, Chris Dunn, John Eldert, Doris Epstein

**List of Documents presented at the meeting:** Minutes from 1.2.19 meeting, agenda from 3.6.19 meeting, Woods Hole Group Shellfish Survey submitted by John Eldert, and Waquoit Bay Navigational Channel Assessment by John Eldert and Chris Dunn.

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes**

Mr. Thomas noted that the attachment from the previous meeting had not been included electronically and will be included with this meeting’s minutes. Approval of the minutes with the amendment was unanimous.

**Waquoit Channel Dredging Discussion**

Mr. Eldert led the discussion saying the Waquoit Bay Yacht Club wanted to know the status of its dredging request for the interior channel to the Town of Falmouth channel maintenance program, with emphasis on the section where the depth is measured to be less than six feet. Previously Mr. Fraser recommended documenting the extent of the shoaling and shellfish in the channel. To that end, the WBYC hired the Woods Hole Group to assess the depth and research organic and inorganic samples in the area. Independently the WBYC scanned the bottom of the channel to document where the problem lies. They determined that the channel has a 3.5 to 4’ depth and a 6’ depth on either side. They also determined that there is no shellfish on the shoal. They said they would chart the entire bay next summer.

Mr. Fraser said the west side between the entrance jetties has bad shoaling and it’s really shallow on the Falmouth-Mashpee line before you reach #1 & #2 buoys. He said the shell fishermen would likely object to dredging these locations based on past experience with them.

Mr. Thomas said the first step is to determine if this project is viable and suggested seeking funding for permitting and engineering, although Mr. Fraser reminded the committee that the Conservation Commission turned down the previous request to dredge this area. But the group should secure funding, hire an engineer and proceed with the permitting process knowing that approval will have to be secured from Chapter 91, MEPA and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Kinney noted that it is a problematic area because there is so much muck. But he said if it’s done once it probably won’t need repeat dredging for some time. Mr. Fraser said that disposal of the soil will probably be another problem as it will not be beach
compatible. He wasn’t sure where the disposal site would have to likely be on Washburn’s or the state property at South Cape.

Mr. Eldert said the WBYC had a good relationship with WEBNERR and would ask what they could offer. WEBNEER would eventually make a recommendation to DCR.

Mr. Fraser suggested the group get a preliminary engineering cost estimate so that they could decide if it is worth proceeding to the funding phase. He said he wouldn’t be surprised if the engineering cost alone was $50,000 or more. Mr. Fraser said he would seek preliminary quotes for permitting and engineering. He said the estimated dredging cost can be calculated once a projected cubic yardage to be removed is determined. We would have to request an amendment to the current dredging permit. Mr. Fraser suggested the proponents reach out to Dave Brown and Jay Queenan as they were apposed to the last application by the WWC. It would also be helpful to give a presentation to the Shellfish Advisory Committee to insure they would not object to the project moving forward.

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 sheathing that couldn’t be driven below the mud line. He said he was expecting approval to move forward within the next day or so. They will start up the project again and will use grout to fill the gaps between the old bulkhead and the new sheathing. Due to the anticipated change orders additional funding is being sought at the April Town Meeting.

Public Comment
Mr. Dawson asked if there was an update on the status of the Eel River dredging project. Mr. Fraser said the state denied the request for a time of year waiver. He said that the county dredging schedule was consistently unreliable. The Codfish had been sent to dredge the approach to Bourne’s Pond, but there was no crew yet. The Sandshifter was diverted several times and now appears to be headed to Chatham. The county issued an RFP for management services for the dredging program. They have also hired a lower cape company to do the pre and post dredge surveys.

Member Comment
Mr. King wants to put together a database on dredge projects and asked if he could work with someone on that. Mr. Fraser suggested Mark Kasprzyk. Mr. King also asked what the consequences were if someone slips or injures himself or herself on a town ramp and was told that the town deals with those issues through the normal legal process including its liability insurance.

The meeting ended at 7:50.

The next meeting is April 3, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Campbell, Recording Secretary.