Waterways Management Committee Minutes 4.3.19
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: Cam Dawson, Chris Dunn, Glenn Schlager

List of Documents presented at the meeting: Minutes from 3.6.19 meeting, agenda for 4.3.19 meeting

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes
Approval of the minutes from the 3.6.19 was unanimous.

Bourne’s Pond Approach Dredging Update
Mr. Fraser said the project was completed, although no post-dredging survey has been done yet. It looks like the amount of dredge material is higher than normal, but even more could have been dredged. The DPW is working on a permit for disposal on the west side now.

The County dredge program is currently in a state of disarray. They have been unable to complete dredging projects across the Cape due to scheduling, personnel and equipment failures. Mr. Fraser said we have requested pre-dredge surveys for Great Pond and Green Pond so that we can apply for a dredging incursion. Both Falmouth Harbor and Eel River projects were scuttled by the county this winter. They are tentatively planned for October if the Massworks grant money is allowed to carry over.

Mr. Fraser said we will apply for a Mass Works dredge grant for Green Pond Inlet and extension. There are about 4,000 cubic yards worth of dredge and that will cost about $40,000. We have to show economic impact. If we don’t dredge, there would be significant impact here.

Simpson’s Landing Repair Update
There is a big problem here and an additional $125,000 needs to be requested to wrap it up. Mr. Fraser said it would likely come from the Waterways Improvement Fund. They will continue to install the sheathing down to the Tietje property at the southern end, but they can’t get through the obstruction. It would cost $90,000 for some very expensive grouting cement process. Also, two tiebacks had to be cut in the process and they need to re-welded now. Additional sheathing is also needed. The town will proceed with a new plan at a later date tbd.

Mr. Fraser hoped we would get approval at Town Meeting, then have the change order signed and get back to work.
Public Comment
Chris Dunn of the Waquoit Bay Yacht Club asked what the status was of their dredging project. Mr. Fraser said he approached the Woods Hole Group to come up with an estimate for permitting and engineering.

Mr. Schlager asked about the status of the Eel River dredge project. Mr. Fraser said that if the dredge and the money are still available, it could be done after Columbus Day. He is working on a mechanism to extend the grant.

Mr. Fraser is attending a meeting on Friday to address issues with the county dredge program. Once the county program is stabilized, the CIHMA will request a county lead meeting with the legislative delegation, DMF, DEP and Coastal Zone Management to revisit the TOY’s. He’d like to see two weeks added on either side of the current restriction dates in order to get the projects done. The Department of Environmental Protection makes the TOY waiver decisions, but the roadblock is usually the Division of Marine Fisheries. Specifically, there is an issue with mapped winter flounder territory, which, apparently, has not seen any winter flounder for some time. It was suggested that the county or Cape Cod Commission do a survey on winter flounder and present the results to the DMF. But first we need to determine the criteria for accepting evidence in order to remove the TOY restrictions.

Member Comments
Mr. King is putting together a database on dredge projects and said he has talked to Mark Kasprzyk about areas of concern. In the matter of disposal of the old Eel Pond Floats, Mr. King said one will go to Naashon and two to a residence on Great Harbor. For liability purposes, Mr. Fraser asked for the new owners to supply name and address and note that they assume responsibility for the floats as they will no longer be town owned. This is the same process the Coast Guard used when they donated them to the town years ago.

Mr. Hawkes said the new floats for the Falmouth docks are done but the company does not want to install them without the correct number of pilings. The original plan called for three, but the engineer wanted to add two more at a total cost of $18,000, which is not currently in the budget. Mr. Fraser stated two options are currently under consideration. First to request funding at the fall town meeting, not optimal as the new floats could not be used this summer. The other option is to repurpose unspent budget money; however, this typically happens closer to the end of the fiscal year. (June 30th)

Mr. Fraser said Holmes and McGrath is doing a preliminary survey for the West Falmouth Boat ramp. The committee would like it to be the same style as the Harrington Street and Megansett installations – pre-poured slabs of concrete bolted together. The engineer estimated the process should take 3-6 months. Funding for the actual construction has already been secured.

The meeting ended at 7:30.
The next meeting is May 1, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Campbell, Recording Secretary.