

Waterways Management Committee Minutes 5.1.19 Falmouth Harbormaster's Office

Present: Gregg Fraser, Arthur Hawkes, Kevin King, Mike Kinney, Dan Shearer, Jeff Thomas; Recording Secretary Barbara Campbell

Absent: Chuck Eastman, Chuck Martinsen

Guests: Cam Dawson (Eel River), Chris Dunn (Waquoit Bay Yacht Club), John Eldert (Waquoit Bay Yacht Club)

List of Documents presented prior to the meeting: Minutes from 4.3.19 meeting, agenda for 5.1.19 meeting

The meeting began at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes

Revisions to the 4.3.19 minutes include spelling Naushon correctly and saying West Falmouth docks rather than Falmouth docks. Approval of the minutes with corrections was unanimous.

Simpson's Landing Repair Update

The town finance department and Ack Marine agreed on the change order and Mr. Fraser said he hoped it would be signed soon by town manager Julian Suso. The change order will cover driving 3 additional pieces of sheathing, reattaching 2 tie backs, backfilling and paving the area.

West Falmouth Float Update

The floats and pilings are in but need work where the access ramp comes down. The angle has to be changed. Mr. Shearer is funding a new ramp for the project which is longer and wider than the original to accommodate access by all ages. He mentioned that the ramp area needs a new flagpole and said the Boat Club can raise the money for it. Mr. Fraser received permission to use excess electrical funds to pay for the piling installations.

West Falmouth Boat Ramp Update

Holmes & McGrath have finished the existing conditions survey. Mr. Fraser provided them with state plans for the Waquoit Boat Ramp which is the style we want to use for West Falmouth. Once the engineering is complete, the project will be filed as a NOI with Conservation.

Green Pond and Great Pond Inlet Dredging Update

The county said surveys were done two weeks ago and Mr. Fraser expected to receive results soon. Once received, he will apply to the state for a waiver. The county said it could have the dredge in Falmouth by the end of May/beginning of June if we get the waiver. The issue is the area is a mapped territory for winter flounder, but they haven't been seen in at least 15 years. Mr. Fraser said waivers for piping plovers were received in Mashpee but no waivers for fish have been awarded. Mr. Kinney said he went out into

Green Pond at dead low tide and the center measured five feet. Mr. Fraser said Green Pond should be okay if there is no waiver at least for this year, but Great Pond is a priority to dredge if we can.

Public Comments

Mr. Eldert and Mr. Dunn, representing Waquoit Bay Yacht Club, were present at the meeting to stay aware and receive updates of their project. Mr. Fraser told them that the Woods Hole Group had called to get clarification that the material to be dredged was organic and not beach compatible, which may be a hold up to the process as a suitable place to deposit the material needs to be found. We will get quotes for engineering and permitting contingent on finding where the material can be deposited. Mr. Fraser said Mashpee has the same issue (Mashpee River) and we will try to work together to find a spot, saying that Washburn Island could be ideal as a viable deposit area. Mr. Thomas said we would have to file an article in September to get on the fall Town Meeting warrant, however, Mr. Fraser said we would start by adding this into the capital budget. The dredging costs would be funded at a later time. Mr. Fraser stated he has discussed this being part of a joint application to Massworks with the Town of Mashpee.

Mr. Dawson asked if the Eel River dredging was part of the capital budget, and Mr. Fraser told him it is not. Funding for that has already been secured with 50% coming from the 2019 Massworks grant.

Member Comments

Mr. King noted that the Eel Pond floats were all accounted for meaning that when replaced with new ones, the old ones would be reused elsewhere. The Cape Cod Technical High School is making the new ones like they have done in the past.

Mr. Thomas proposed writing an educational summary and dredging primer about the role of the Waterways Management Committee that will reside on the committee's web page. He is working on an outline and asked the members to provide feedback so it can be fleshed out and done in November. With this guide, Mr. Thomas hopes to show the value this committee adds to the town. Mr. Thomas is also editing the committee handbook.

He brought up term dates and Mr. Fraser will ask the town for that information as it looks like Mr. Hawkes and Mr. Shearer may be at the end of their terms as committee members. In order to rejoin, they would need to rotate off the committee for a year before rejoining if there are openings.

Mr. Fraser informed the group that the new town boat was launched today. A new security camera system has been installed at Robbins Road. As there is a constant complaint about a lack of Wi-Fi, the town is looking into how to provide it at the marina.

The meeting ended at 8:10. The next meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Campbell, Recording Secretary.