

WATERWAYS COMMITTEE MARINA BUILDING March 4, 2020 7:00PM

Members Present: Jeff Thomas (Chair), Mike Kinney (V-Chair), Chuck Eastman, Joe Voci, Kevin King, Gregg Fraser

Members Not-Present: Dan Shearer & Chuck Martinsen

Guests Present: Chris Dunn WBYC, John Eldert WBYC, Selectman Doug Brown and Brad Cole

Call to Order: Quorum present meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Minutes: Review and approve minutes from February 5, 2020-AS corrected, use first initial and last names when quoting members or guests.

MOTION: J Voci, 2nd C Eastman to accept the minutes of February 5, 2020

Unanimously Voted

Public Comments:

- **Rand's Canal Dredging Discussion – Jay Miller**
J. Miller was unable to attend the meeting, he contacted G. Fraser prior, and asked him to relay his message. J. Miller is aware that the Rand's canal permit is about to expire, he was encouraged to renew the permit and to ask the Town if they would consider dredging providing that the spoils be used by Beach Dept. J. Miller will talk to the property owners and will report back to the committee. G. Fraser explained dredging Rand's canal would be part of the \$100,000. Annual Town budget, it may be more cost effective to rent the Plymouth county dredge excavator if available for a cost of \$1,500.00 per week. G. Fraser stated this would be perfect for this kind of project. He further explained that the DPW was experienced with the machine and was able to clear the fresh and salt river's effectively. Rand's Canal project would follow this same path. DPW would ship material to where the beach superintendent prefers.
- **Conservation Mooring Grant-West Falmouth (Buzzards Bay Coalition & Town)** The Town was approached and asked to replace anchor chained moorings with eco moorings to preserve eel grass. The Buzzards Bay Coalition was awarded the entire \$100,000 from the state, coalition will supply materials, inspectors to install helix then individuals will work with installers Todd Taylor and Ben Karson. New moorings must be cleaned annually and a report will be submitted by each owner. Army Corp is leaning in this direction to require this type for the protection of eel grass. M. Kinney asked if this mooring allows for more mooring in each field? G. Fraser explained this will start out as more of a replacement, then we will need to revisit each area. K King asked if it is being done in other areas? G. Fraser explained, this grant is for West Falmouth harbor only. These are more effective in large storm surges areas. Cost of each mooring is approx. 2 to 3 thousand dollars, but with more companies getting involved it is driving the cost down making them closer in cost to conventional moorings. Woods Hole would be the next good candidate. These may be required in Eel grass areas.
- **Megansett Harbor Dredging Historical Records update-** G. Fraser sent a request to DCR (Dept. of Conservation and Recreation) for any past dredging records. DCR came back with three state contracts, but none are clear of exactly where the dredging took place. If we can find evidence of past dredging in this area, then it would be considered maintenance dredging rather than improvement dredging. 50 to 500 foot should be permitted to clear out the entrance approach. Wood hole group has been contacted for a cost estimate. G. Fraser feels that because this area has not been done in years, if done again, it could become self-sufficient.

- Eel River Extension and Approach Post Dredge Surveys-Both have been done, county contracted out to get survey with cubic yard removed. Massworks 2018 grant will pay \$87,000 for Falmouth Inner and Eel River Extension.
- Public Comments- John Elder Waquoit Bay to map out shallow channel, has done 2 plot charts gained support of shellfish, worked with local engineer to get scope of maintenance of area, appreciates the committee's effort. Would like to continue to move project along and would like to get faster results. To keep problem from getting worse, can we improve the channel marking and implement speed limits? G. Fraser is working with Mashpee, but has had a lot of opposition for a no wake zone. Flats on both sides are no wake zones, the other side is Mashpee they are actively addressing this area. G. Fraser suggests a stand-alone article so that Waquoit Bay does not exhaust entire budget. Wood Hole group is usually close with their estimates and concerned with where spoils go. J. Thomas to put together some information for next month's meeting, may need to dive deeper into this project. K. King can we meet before the next meeting? J. Thomas yes.
WWC working group to meet outside to find an answer. State has grants for dredging, Waquoit Bay would not qualify for state Massworks grant. C. Dunn satisfied with creative ideas and solutions the committee has put forth.
- Member Comments-WH new docks look great. Installing new ladders Saturday 3-7-2020. C. Eastman asked why Out hauls are now being charged on mooring bills? G. Fraser-we are systemically adding them to the system. J. Thomas will work with WB dredging to come up with a plan and prepare it for next meeting.
- Ramp in West Falmouth permits are done locally, waiting for Chapter 91 and ACOE's permit.
- Motion to adjourn
- Set next meeting date- April 1, 2020

Adjournment: Having no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Paula Cushman

10:00 am March 19th to meet in conference room.