

MINUTES OF THE
WATERFRONT COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2016

PRESENT: George Mutch, Chairman
Paul Milone
Ray Nash
Herb Clifford
Dan Keefe
Paul Brooks
Nancy Blazo

ABSENT: Pat O'Leary, Vice Chair

OTHERS: Lee Hultin, Recording Secretary

Chairman Mutch called the Waterfront Committee meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall, 75 Middle Street, Weymouth, Ma 02189.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Nancy Blazo made a motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2015 and was seconded by Paul Milone.

VOTED 7-0

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

Paul Milone reported that Jim Clarke has submitted the proposed Waterway Ordinance to Mayor Hedlund with a cover letter from the Waterfront Committee supporting the ordinance.

Paul currently has the two boats in the water.

Paul Milone stated that he has spoken with Chip Fontaine, DPW and Kevin Mooney regarding dredging for the launch ramp. He is currently filling out the Rivers and Harvest application to see if we can get funding from the state to help with this. Paul stated that it is not an emergency right now, he is just being proactive and is beginning the process now as it will take a few years. This project would cost approximately \$450,000 to dredge and the town does not have that money.

Chairman Mutch asked Paul when he feels the town would be in critical need of the dredging and Mr. Milone stated in about 3-5 years. It was asked if we would ever need to close the launch ramp and Mr. Milone stated no because you can always launch your boat during high tide. It is only the low tide that he is worried about. He currently has signs up that say "Insufficient water at low tide". The last time it was dredged was 1993.

Ray Nash stated that a 25 foot boat is ok to launch but not a 44 foot boat which would be a commercial boat. Paul Milone stated that in FY14-15 there were 3,212 boats launched.

Chairman Mutch suggested that this committee send our State Representatives and Senators a letter requesting help with dredging the launch ramp.

Paul Brooks asked how much money was in the Waterways Fund and Paul Milone stated almost \$250,000.

Chairman Mutch will add a dredge solution to our launch ramp to our objective list before it becomes critical. He stated that the Corps of Engineers has two dredge lists and it is important to have commercial fishing being involved because that will put our request up to the top of the list.

Weymouth's launch ramp should be an all tides launch ramp in case of an emergency as Quincy and Hingham have terrible ramps.

Paul Milone will gather some information on this and bring it to the next meeting.

The town will be sending out boat excise taxes soon and mooring applications. All of the season passes are ready for this summer and they will be different colors and shapes. This year is a purple diamond.

Paul Milone said that he has put his budget together and met with Captain Comperchio for review. His total budget is \$135,000 and they took in \$137,000. He will bring a copy of his proposed FY17 budget to the next meeting.

Nancy Blazo asked when the security cameras went up at the beach bath house and Paul said last month. Nancy said two neighbors called her and said they should have been brought up at a public meeting. There are cameras at Tern Harbor, launch ramp and bathhouse. The new LED lights are also lit. These cameras are being monitored at the Police Department 24/7 real time. Eventually Paul Milone will be able to monitor them on his computer. There are 3-4 more cameras coming on another grant for the Fore River Bridge area and the Harbormasters Association is also giving the town some cameras too.

PROJECT UPDATES

Chairman Mutch reported on the following items:

- Kibby Property – Is moving along and they still have a completion date of May 15, 2016.
- Fore River – The work has been moving forward but they are a year behind. Paul Milone said that he heard they would be putting up the center span in June and would be closing the channel for 5 days.
- Wharf Street – The second canoe launch still needs to be updated by the MBTA which is also known as the Durante Property. The town is still waiting.
- Landfill – They have an RFP to design the pathway. It should be under construction for 6-8 months and be completed in 2016.

WORK PROGRAM FOR 2015-16 DISCUSSION

- Pump out locations – we need to locate them all. Hewitts Cove is not always available. Chairman Mutch asked who can help enforce this. Paul will check to see if Tern Harbor is still doing them. It was suggested that maybe we could put the locations in a flyer to people with moorings.
- Docks and Permits
- Back River graffiti on the Bridge when approaching the Back River
- Shore line access for fishing in Great Esker Park
- Outreach to Police Department – The Great Esker Grid was forwarded to the Police Department.
- Education Center – Needs more discussion as there are no plans proposed, just an idea.

OTHER BUSINESS

Committee discussion on stickers and launch fees:

Paul Milone said the launch fee is \$8.00 and that is high in comparison. Paul and Ray Nash have some concerns about the beach stickers. This past summer they issued 585 senior beach stickers which are free of charge and are a lot of work. Ray said they don't have that many seniors going to the beach. A lot of them just come and get them because they are free and they don't even use them. Ray has suggested charging \$5.00 for the senior stickers to help defray the cost of printing.

Paul Brooks disagrees and feels that \$5.00 is too much. He would like to only charge \$2.00 as he feels the seniors are on a fixed income.

After a brief discussion everyone feels they should probably charge something for the beach sticker but they could not agree on a fee.

Nancy Blazo does not believe Mayor Hedlund would agree to an increase.

Paul Milone said he would not mind keeping the fee free to seniors if they used the beach stickers but they don't seem to use them.

This will be discussed again at the next meeting as they begin selling the stickers in April.

Dan Keefe agrees we need to charge something but is not sure how much.

Herb Clifford feels that maybe the seniors are giving their free stickers to their kids or grandkids to use.

Paul Milone said the resident's plate number is put on the stickers and they enforce this during the summer and issue tickets which are \$25.00.

Paul Milone will email the fee schedule to all members for review at the next meeting. Even if they do consider raising the fee for seniors it would still need approval of Mayor Hedlund as he sets the fees.

Chairman Mutch said he is also concerned about our own residents being able to get parking space at the beach versus nonresidents. He was assured by Paul Milone, Harbormaster, that the lots never fill up and our residents can always get a parking space.

Chairman Mutch handed out a copy of the Waterfront Committee's responsibilities as it is stated in the Code of Ordinances. This issue was raised at the last meeting by Pat O'Leary because there is a development in the Idlewell area which is near wetlands and she wants clarity as to whether or not the Waterfront Committee has any authority over this.

Herb Clifford said he was reading over Section 3-221 of the Ordinances and would like the committee to review this at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2016, at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT


Paul Milone made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 pm and was seconded by Nancy Blazo.
VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted by:

Lee Hultin
Recording Secretary



Paul Brooks, Clerk



Date