

WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 16, 2017
Kelly Room - Town Hall
75 Middle Street, Weymouth, MA

PRESENT: George Mutch, Chairman
 Paul Brooks
 Nancy Blazo
 Frank Geary
 Pat O'Leary
 Herb Clifford
 Paul Milone

ABSENT: Ray Nash
OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Luongo, Planning Director
 Janet Murray, Recording Secretary

Chairman Mutch called the Waterfront Committee Meeting to order at 7pm at the Town Hall, Kelly Room, 75 Middle Street, Weymouth, MA, 02189.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Nancy Blazo made a motion to approve the minutes of November 11, 2016 and was seconded by Pat O'Leary. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

PROJECT UPDATE

Bob Luongo gave an update on the proposal to create a public walkway between Lane Beach and Wessagussett Beach. He noted that the town was approved for a \$184,000 grant for engineering for the walkway. The total amount is \$192,500. The additional money may need to be returned to the State.

Bob Luongo stated that the town will use \$38,000 for engineering from the Iantosca Brothers rather than using Community Preservation Funds.

Coastal Engineering from Orleans was recommended to work on this project. The contract has not been awarded as there is a process that needs to be completed with the State. Kate Marshall has been working on the contract and it is ready to be sent to Coastal engineering for review.

He stated that a study would be done to look at enhancement of the beach area. There is hope for opportunities for economic development to draw tourism to Route 3A corridor.

He also stated that the study would look at the coastal bank which is owned by the town. The town wants to stabilize the area as there are signs of erosion. Invasive species need to be cleared and replaced with natural vegetation and to overall beautify the location.

He noted that there is still the controversial issue of private stairways that possibly encroach on town property.

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He stated that he may form an Internal advisory committee made up of staff from Engineering, Planning, Conservation, Waterfront, and a member of the public.

He stated that the mayor is in favor of cleaning up the area. There are concerns about safety, security, and possible congestion regarding the access between the two beaches.

George Mutch stated that Coastal Engineering's bid included taking the lead on outreach and public input.

Bob Luongo stated that he will ask the Mayor to discuss the proposal on his TV show.

OTHER BUSINESS

Harbor Master, Paul Milone, spoke about the proposed by-law changes regarding house boats. It is being reviewed by the legal department. He passed out a copy of the proposed changes. There was discussion regarding definitions. Any boat can be considered a house boat.

Paul Milone noted that a concern is about pump outs during the off-season. Pump-outs are available during the summer months

He stated that there are 889 boats. He informed the committee that the user fee per foot will be increased from \$5 to \$6 for an increase of \$22,000 yearly. He noted that fees are under the purview of the Mayor. This increase will be in effect this year.

Herb Clifford made a motion to send an advisory note to the mayor expressing agreement with the \$1 increase per foot (12 feet and up) for the user fee. The Motion was seconded by Nancy Blazo. The motion PASSED 4-2-1 (4 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstained).

Paul Milone noted that the applications and user fees can be done online. There was discussion regarding establishing an email database.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

Paul Milone made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm and was seconded by Herb Clifford. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

 Date 5-16-17