MINUTES OF THE WATERFRONT COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 21, 2015

PRESENT:

George Mutch, Chairman

Pat O'Leary, Vice Chair

Dan Keefe Herb Clifford Paul Brooks Nancy Blazo

ABSENT:

Paul Milone

Ray Nash Claude Keith

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

Herb Clifford made a motion to approve the minutes of April 23, 2015 and was seconded by Nancy Blazo.

Voted unanimously

WATERFRONT PROJECT UPDATE - None

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT - None

Chairman Mutch stated that the shellfish report from Debra Michaels will be given at the next Waterfront Committee meeting on June 18, 2015.

OTHER BUSINESS

North Weymouth Compression Station:

Nancy Blazo stated that there was a meeting last evening in North Weymouth about this and the residents do not want it. District 1 Councilor Becky Haugh did a great job at this meeting.

Dan Keefe asked why are the residents opposed to this as the gas line is already there and goes through Weymouth.

Herb Clifford stated that there is a lot of hype about this topic but some of it is warranted.

Pat O'Leary stated that there will be blow off from this station and the area is very dense.

George Mutch asked if there will be an exclusion zone around the site and if we would loose the park next to it. He has done some research and all the other compression stations along the route are in the middle of nowhere and there are very few homes around.

There was some discussion as to whether or not the Waterfront Committee would like to take a stand on this issue.

Herb Clifford made a motion to table this issue until the next meeting when more members would be present for discussion and was seconded by Paul Brooks.

Voted 4-2 (George and Pat – No)

Discussion Tabled

Homeless people in Esker:

Paul Milone was going to look into this issue. Herb Clifford said he already spoke to the Police Chief about this and they believe it is more of a campsite and not homeless people.

It is very close to the waterfront and there is a lot of litter and debri. Resident have told Herb that they will not walk in Great Esker because of this problem.

Herb Clifford said that when they did the clean up of Great Esker they found 2-3 camp sites that were a mess. Most of the sites are from Route 3A to the hill in Esker. He believes the new gate is working very well. It was open for a while but is closed now. It has stopped all the dumping that was going on.

The committee is struggling with who is the enforcement agency for the park.

Herb Clifford made a motion to form a working group of three people, George, Nancy and Herb to work on a letter to send to the Police Department in regards to the homeless camps in Great Esker and the Back River Waterfront. This was seconded by Pat O'Leary. Voted unanimously

This working group will bring a draft letter back to the Waterfront Committee for their review and approval at the next meeting.

There was some discussion about the graffiti on the bridge over the Back River and who is responsible for removing it. One idea was to send a letter to Mass Highway asking them to have it removed. Perhaps we could reach out to Hingham, Bare Cove Park and State Representatives and ask them to join us in getting it removed.

George Mutch stated that he will take some pictures from the water as that is really the only place that you can see it. All the boats that go into the Back River see this graffiti.

Upcoming events – Next Wednesday is another meeting on the Compression Station and Tuesday the Town Council will be taking up Proposition 2 ½.

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Pat O'Leary asked if anyone has an update on the smelt situation. It was stated that Mayor Sullivan proposed to purchase the land that abuts the smelt stream in the landing.

Herb Clifford reminded everyone of the three races he has been working on. The Twilight Run on July 16, 2015, Over the Esker 5K on August 22, 2015 and Weymouth Shoreline Run on September 26, 2015. He stated that he is still looking for sponsors for these events. It was suggested that he reach out to Doctor's Express, Vertex and North Weymouth Civic Association.

Pat O'Leary announced that the grand opening of Legion Field is on June 20, 2015 from 2-6 and Malcom Butler will be there along with sports trophys, live music, demos and Hall of Famers.

Ryder Development is proposing to build 14 houses off Hyde Street near Idlewell. These lots are pork-chopped and there is a concern about the water table in the area.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

Herb Clifford made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm and was seconded by Paul Brooks. Voted unanimously

Respectfully submitted by:

Lee Hultin Recording Secretary

Paul Brooks, Clerk

Date