

MINUTES OF THE
WATERFRONT COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 18, 2015

PRESENT: Pat O'Leary, Vice Chair
Herb Clifford
Paul Brooks
Ray Nash
Paul Milone

ABSENT: George Mutch, Chairman
Dan Keefe
Nancy Blazo
Claude Keith

OTHERS: Jim Clarke, Planning Director
MaryEllen Schloss, Conservation
Lee Hultin, Recording Secretary

Vice Chairwoman O'Leary 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 - None

WATERFRONT PROJECT UPDATE

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

Appearing before the board was Devon Winkler, Mass. Fisheries.

Ms. Winkler updated the board on why all the shellfish in the area are dying off. She sampled the area. All of Boston Harbor's shellfish have been dying off over the past 5 years. She noticed in the fall of 2010 the clams at Constitution Beach near Logan were "melting" and two years prior to that there were plenty of clams. They believe this "melting" is caused by a disease known as Neoplasia and is passed through the water. It has since migrated south towards Quincy, Weymouth, Hingham and Hull. A researcher named Ann Becker has been researching this disease, Neoplasia. She has been collecting samples in communities along the coastline. Areas on the North Shore have not shown any sign of this disease.

Weymouth has stopped digging in 2011 and Quincy stopped in the fall of 2012. Quincy may begin digging again to test to see how they are in the Spring of 2015. Quincy believes the area may have reseeded and appear to be healthy. Paul Milone, Harbormaster stated that he will have Weymouth's Master Digger investigate to see if the shellfish have returned to Weymouth.

Herb Caldwell asked if the oysters and mussels have been affected by this disease. Ms. Winkler is not sure but did state that the climate change has affected the area. Herb Clifford noted that

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Weymouth oysters have all died off and asked if there were any plans to replenish them in the Boston area. Ms. Winkler stated that there are oyster farms around that are approved.

Herb Clifford asked her to look into any effects on other species for an overall picture of the area. Pat O'Leary suggested looking in Quincy to see if other species are coming back there since we already know the shellfish are.

Ms. Winkler said the reseeding program was always supposed to be short term and is going to end this summer.

Maryellen Schloss asked her if it was a good idea for Weymouth to do some reseeding on our own and it was suggested that Weymouth wait another 2 years to see if things come back.

Water Quality – Ms. Winkler has been working with DEP in Worcester to monitor water trends over the past 10 years. The biggest change was in 2011 when they changed the way they tested.

There was a question about the smelt ladder in Pond Meadow Park but replacement of that does not fall under her jurisdiction.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Clarke stated that he has been working FEMA on the new flood maps and the town has hired a consultant to review them. The consultant did an analysis showing 39 properties and 20 have been taken out or changed and 3 have been added into the flood area.

In the Weymouth Landing the Delago's property have submitted plans to demolish their buildings but will be leaving the old Brick Grille. These plans have been sent to Conservation for a hearing.

Kibby Property – Jim reported that the consultants are putting a plan together and he will be submitting something in July.

Herb Clifford reported back on behalf of the working group of three (George, Pat and Herb). He presented a draft letter to the Police Chief for the committees review.

Paul Brooks made a motion to approve this letter to be sent to the Chief of Police and was seconded by Herb Clifford.

Voted unanimously

Jim Clarke stated that he will provide letterhead for this letter and they should cc: Mayor Kay.

Herb reported that Steve Reilly, Recreation Director told him he has set up a grid system for Great Esker Park and the Waterfront Committee is more than welcome to use it. Also, the gate is open again and cars are parking in the park again. Ray Nash stated that Steve Reilly is in charge of locking the gate.

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Paul Milone stated that he working on the town's Waterways Ordinance and will bring a draft to a future meeting for input. He would like a maritime center to be built in Weymouth. Hingham and Quincy both have one. It could be used for boat safety classes, field trips etc. He asked the committee to start looking for locations and we can discuss this at the next meeting in September.

ADJOURNMENT


Paul Brooks made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm and was seconded by Paul Milone.
Voted unanimously

Respectfully submitted by:

Lee Hultin
Recording Secretary



Paul Brooks, Clerk



Date