

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
December 13, 2010**

Present: Brian McDonald, Chairman
Ed Harrington
Victor Pap III

Absent: Thomas J. Lacey
Kevin Whitaker

Also Present: Robert Conlon, Councilor
Patrick O'Connor, Councilor
James Clarke, Director, Planning and Community Development

Recording Secretary: Diane T. Hachey

Chairman McDonald called the Environmental Committee meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

Public Discussion and Input on the Fore River Bridge Replacement Project

Chairman McDonald noted that the purpose of this evening's meeting is to obtain information from the public. All of the civic organizations were extended an invitation to attend. He further noted that he witnessed an accident this evening and will request, later at Town Council, that a letter is written to DOT in request of remedying the public safety issue of metal obtruding from the bridge.

Frank Singleton of 60 Wharf Road, Chairman of the Fore River Watershed Association

Mr. Singleton aired his concerns regarding important species (although none endangered) which may be effected by dredging for the project. He wants to ensure that the cost to the state and the cost and effect to the fisheries is taken into consideration. Namely, the drilling and blasting on the basin in front of Citgo needs to be effectively evaluated, he has yet to observe any efforts by the state in terms of evaluation.

Councilor Pap noted that the North Weymouth Civic Association has been very active in this matter and have attended numerous meetings, but were unable to attend this evening. They have been very vocal in their request for a bascule style bridge.

Gary Peters of 34 Bluff Road, of the Fore River Bridge Neighborhood Association

Mr. Peters distributed, for the benefit of the committee, a packet with supporting documentation for his testimony. The packet was inclusive of acronyms regarding the project, a glossary of definitions, the Bridge Permit (indicative of areas of non-compliance), and correspondence to Damaris Santiago dated June 12, 2009, from the Director of Environmental Services of the EOT entitled "NEPA class of action determination, Fore River Bridge Replacement, Quincy and Weymouth.

Mr. Peters is requesting the following in terms of the bridge replacement project:

- a clear and enforceable document
- public trust
- a bridge design which encompasses the historical character of the area-he noted that 98% of those polled favor a bascule style bridge
- complete environmental review which mirrors the MEPA process
- holding of public meetings and public hearings
- ensuring that quality of life for surrounding residents is taken into consideration

He further cited details surrounding violations on the bridge permit, totaling six. Protection of the smelt run is imperative. He is suggesting that from 15 February through 15 June that there is a ban on construction in order to sufficiently protect wildlife.

Mr. Peters noted the importance of raising issues, posing questions, requesting documentation and holding federal agencies responsible for proper responses. He filed a freedom of information request in October with the state and to date has yet to receive a response.

He stated that baseline studies are to be taken at face value, and that the citizenry is requesting the least amount of impact with work completed safely and swiftly.

He displayed a poster board indicative of the current bridge structure with an overlay of the proposed vertical lift design, to portray the size of the proposal.

The Fore River Bridge Neighborhood Association has strongly spoken in favor of the bascule style of bridge due to less maintenance, ease of pre-ordered parts, swifter construction, fewer environmental impacts, and most importantly affords the town the best opportunity for an aesthetically pleasing bridge which has historical significance to the surrounding area.

Councilor Pap commends Mr. Peters for his passion, attendance at meetings and work involved as related to this project.

Councilor Conlon noted that the bridge must be raised for tankers, regardless of the bridge style.

Councilor McDonald extended his appreciation to Mr. Singleton and Mr. Peters for their testimony, he announced that he will call an additional meeting in the very near future.

Adjournment

At 7:29 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Pap to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Harrington and was unanimously voted.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Hachey as Recording Secretary

Approved by Councilor Brian McDonald as Chairman