

WATERFRONT COMMITTEE MEETING
Kelly Room, Town Hall
75 Middle Street, Weymouth, MA
January 18, 2018
Minutes

PRESENT:

George Mutch, Chairman
Paul Brooks
Jim Sullivan
Paul Milone
Frank Geary
Chet Gillis

ALSO PRESENT:

Robert Luongo, Planning Director
Christine Malloy, Recording Secretary

Chairman Mutch called the meeting of the Waterfront Committee to order at 7:00PM.

NEW MEMBER – INTRODUCTION

Chairman Mutch introduced Mr. Jim Sullivan the newest Waterfront Committee member to the group. All members introduced themselves.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

Paul Milone, Harbormaster gave the Harbormaster's Report. He has hired four new harbormasters and all four have been reappointed for three years. He received a FEMA Grant and is extremely fortunate for a new patrol boat; new boat and new engines for old boats. Mr. Milone would like to build a maritime education center by the waterfront.

Chairman Mutch asked what will it be used for and why is it needed.

Mr. Brooks asked Mr. Milone can you partner with the Recreation Department on this project.

Mr. Milone stated yes.

Mr. Luongo stated Mr. Milone should meet with the Mayor Hedlund, Ted Langill and John McLeod to get this Maritime Education Center on the Capital Plan and the 5 year plan and list the year that he intends to get the project completed.

Mr. Brooks asked if Mr. Milone knows if the location he is interested is in a conservation area.

Mr. Milone no, but it's in a flood zone so the building would need to be built up.

Mr. Gillis stated a lot of cities have these Maritime Education Centers.

Mr. Milone stated he will get this project on the CIP; he didn't know that was a thing to do.

Mr. Milone discussed cleaning out behind the launch ramp.

Mr. Luongo stated speak with Maryellen Schloss before you do anything else regarding "cleaning out". You don't want to have to replace endangered species because you thought you were cleaning up weeds.

MINUTES

Mr. Geary made a MOTION to APPROVE the minutes of September 21, 2017. Mr. Brooks SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

UPDATE - PUBLIC WALKWAY

Mr. Luongo stated the town has obtained a design grant from the Seaport Commerce Council for the connection between Lane Beach and Wessagusset Beach for plans and specs. The town has hired Coastal Engineering. They have come up with conceptual boardwalk for the two beaches that would involve repairing the revetment that is there now, clearing out the old bathhouse, restoring the old shelf area, creating new stairs behind the old shelf. The new walkway would be on top of the revetment; a timber walkway start at Wessagusset Beach stairway at the end of the revetment and end with mats which would be taken up at the fall and put back down in the spring; revetment is handicap accessible up to the point where the mat goes and then turn back.

There was a misconception for a number of years that the landowners on Regatta Road owned beach front and those landowners made stairs down to the beach. When we get more information from Engineering Department we will have a meeting with Regatta Road residents and explain to them the solution; a license to traverse stairs via aluminum stairs that are temporary. Currently the town is getting cost estimates on these aluminum stairs. The residents would have to purchase a license to purchase these aluminum stairs. Residents will pay a license fee like a mooring fee. Residents will have to re-vegetate their embankment. Removal and re-vegetation is not cheap. Suggestions:

- Put in what the town suggests for stairs
- Restore the embankment

Mr. Geary asked the committee what about a gate to keep other people from climbing the stairs.

Mr. Luongo suggested presentation to residents then a public meeting and see what happens.

Chairman Mutch asked is this license a once a year thing or a ten year license?

Mr. Luongo stated probably an annual license. Mr. Luongo stated this project is two parts; bring the public down to the water to appreciate it.

Chairman Mutch asked what this committee can do to help this project.

Mr. Luongo stated when the public hearing meeting comes up please come and support the project.

Mr. Sullivan asked will the town extend the stairs offer to a new owner of a home on Regatta Road.

Mr. Luongo stated yes, probably at a higher cost.

Chairman Mutch asked when you expect these public meetings to take place.

Mr. Luongo stated probably early February.

UPDATE: DURANT PROPPERTY on Wharf Street

Mr. Luongo stated the plan is to remediate the site and put passive use on the site; then connect over under the MBTA tracks, repurpose parking lot, canoe launch to Osprey Park and Great Esker.

Chairman Mutch asked if there is a timeframe.

Mr. Luongo stated he doesn't know the timeframe but the project is in the works.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Luongo stated you have all been given a Conflict of Interest Law handout, please read and sign. Hand them back in to Robert Luongo as soon as possible.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waterfront Committee is to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Brooks made a MOTION to ADJOURN at 8:00PM. Mr. Milone SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by:



~~George Mutch, Chairman~~
Secretary

Dated:
