

WATERFRONT COMMITTEE MEETING
Kelly Room, Town Hall
75 Middle Street, Weymouth, MA
October 25, 2018
Minutes

PRESENT:

George Mutch, Chairman
Jim Sullivan
Frank Geary
Nancy Blazo
Karen Graham

NOT PRESENT:

Pat O'Leary, Vice Chairman
Paul Milone, Harbormaster
Paul Brooks

ALSO PRESENT:

Robert Luongo, Planning Director
Christine Malloy, Recording Secretary

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

MINUTES – May 17, 2018

Mr. Geary made a MOTION to APPROVE the minutes of May 17, 2018. Ms. Blazo SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

Mr. Mutch stated the Harbormaster report was emailed to him and the general information from it is they are preparing for boats to be taken out of the water and bridgework is going on.

WALKWAY BETWEEN LANE BEACH AND WESSAGUSSETT BEACH

Mr. Luongo reported he met this past Tuesday with Coastal Zone Management regarding the questions raised at the last Waterfront Committee meeting (no quorum at that meeting so no minutes). The issues are;

1. There is concern regarding handicap spaces closest to Wessagusset Beach encroach on the actual beach. Some suggestions on fixing the issue are to raise the handicap spaces so that they aren't on the coastal embankment, but this might be too expensive for the town. The town parking lot could have handicap spaces but it would be quite a distance for a disabled person to walk. The toe of the new revetment is on existing coastal beach. The town may have to pull some revetment in and put railing on some of the revetment with a four foot bump out to walkways to stay out of coastal beach area.

2. The stated is suggesting that the area of stairway coming down from “the shelf area” is to be replaced with wood stairs. The town does not like this idea of wooden steps. They will rot; they will need replacement, etc. Chairman Mutch asked can the town repair the stairs and refuse to take them out. Mr. Luongo stated this is a great idea; far better than wood steps with over growth and lack of maintenance.
3. The state says coastal beach gets nourished from the embankment. Mr. Luongo says no it doesn't; it's all rock. The town needs to spend month to replenish the beach with some sort of soft rock material like pea stone. Chairman Mutch stated the town should stop the ongoing drudging in the Fore River Area which is pulling the beach out.

The Conservation Conditions hearing is still open. If we don't come to an agreement with them they can appeal it. If they don't approve when things erode more it will be because of the state's failure to take action. The state says they want the project to happen; but it will remain to be seen. The Mayor is not shy about reaching out. The town wants to get an application in for construction.

OPEN SPACE

The town will be hiring a consultant. The town is going to CPC to ask for help with the \$60,000 for the consultant. The town will go out and do additional focus meetings and put information into a format that is acceptable to the state.

Mr. Luongo would like this board to think about questions for the survey. Such as:

- Should be thinking what's important to the waterways
- What's important to open space
- How to make coastline more vibrant
- Saltwater/wetlands are protection to the coast
- Incorporate Union Point
- Bike trails
- The town will host two (2) public meetings.
- Goals
- Surveys
- Final presentation
- Maintenance plan (probably go beyond what the state requires)
- 7 year plan

The current plan is in line for review. Steve Reilly is a critical part of this plan as Director of Recreation. He knows who used the fields and the maintenance they get and need and user groups' wants and needs.

Chairman Mutch asked members to start looking at this online and make notes.

BACK RIVER TRAIL PLAN

All goes to Webb State Park, Kibby Property, Abigail Adams, Great Esker, and Iron Hill. Hiring a consultant to improve the Iron Hill area for passive recreation use and connect to parking area. Will add a kiosk and fix parking and present as opening of Back River Trail.

CROSS WALK

A crosswalk is need at Route 3A to add lights and crossing for better access to the park.

DURANTE PROPERTY

Mr. Luongo stated there is environmental remediation to happen here and he is waiting to hear back from the state.

Mr. Geary Question

Mr. Geary asked, what is the status of the seawall at Fore River Avenue. Chairman Mutch stated he will give Chip Fontaine a call and report back to the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Wells

Mr. Wells asked is there a cultural content? Mr. Luongo stated the walkway is not impacting the cultural or environmental content. Very limited archeological survey done by Shadley Associates.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waterfront Committee will be held tentatively in November 15, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Graham made a MOTION to ADJOURN at 7:43PM. Mr. Sullivan SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by:



George Mutch, Chairman

Dated:

11-15-2018