

Danvers River Committee
Thursday August 10, 2017
Meeting Minutes

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday August 10, 2017 in the Town Manager's Conference Room, Danvers Town Hall, at 6:00pm.

Member(s) present: Aileen L'Abbe, Chairwoman
Matt Byrne
Bill Fouhey
Dan DeLorenzo
Bob Moore

Member(s) absent: Joan George
Louis George
Gardner Trask, Selectman Liaison

Staff Present: Christopher Sanborn, Harbormaster
Carolann Powers, Secretary

Media Present: None

Aileen L'Abbe called meeting called to order at 6:10 pm.

Secretary's Report:

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2017 meeting.

Motion: Made by Bob Moore, seconded by Bill Fouhey to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2017 meeting; All in favor 5:0.

Harbormaster's Report:

Chris informed the group of a meeting he had recently attended, a regional dredging information meeting. It was the second listening session that the State of Massachusetts has ever held regarding dredging and it was very informative and positive. The state was looking for thoughts on what they can do better to make necessary dredging happen in all coastal communities and in addition how they should prioritize which communities get dredged and when. He said the meeting was very informative. Governor Baker has moved all dredging projects to be managed by the Office of Housing and Economic Development. Chris noted the over 100 people representing communities around the North Shore attended this meeting. Chris said Danvers, as compared to other surrounding communities, is in relative good shape dredging wise. He said there are a lot of communities seeking money for their dredging projects. There will be more money available to seek but it will not be a blank check, it will be a difficult process to acquire

the funds. The state will not front the entire cost of any dredging project; at most they will award 50% of the cost of these projects and the remaining funds would need to be supported by the town/community etc... Chris felt this was positive news regarding future Danvers dredging projects. He feels that Gov. Baker is prioritizing dredging initiatives.

Chris thinks from a strategic standpoint Danvers needs to get started on the planning and funding of the proposed dredging plan. Chris said the town may need to reevaluate their waterways permit fees and determine what portion of these fees can go to assist in funding the dredging project. One notable item identified in the meeting was that private marinas and stakeholders (private entities) will have it easier than a municipality this time around when it comes to the dredging process, which is good news for them. Communities that can show collaboration on a regional basis along with partnerships with private entities may save money by hiring one contractor for a multi-community project saving all involved money, private entities can “piggyback” on this multi community/organization concept. The only down side to this is the time frame that communities can dredge in. It may not be feasible to complete such a big project in the small window of time in which dredging is allowed.

Bill F asked if there would be information available to the public this meeting Chris attended. Chris said the meeting was held in Beverly and that Beverly cable TV filmed it, so perhaps people could view it through Beverly Cable TV. Bill also asked if there was a blueprint of what the possible dredging plan would be. The committee agreed that once the state nails down their strategy then the Town of Danvers can begin to firm up their plan. In the meantime, Chris and the committee agreed that it is wise to be proactive financially now regarding planning for a future dredging project.

Matt B. asked if the bank stabilization project at the Crane River Marina, and the erosion problems/concerns at this location which contributes to the problems in the river which lead to Danvers needing dredging, allow the new rip rap project to be included in the dredging project. Chris did not seem to think this would be possible.

Aileen L’Abbe asked if anything has moved forward with the bank stabilization project at the Crane River. Chris said not at this time, but he told the committee that he is still looking into the possibility of piggybacking onto an existing open contract with CDM Smith so that the town could accelerate the permitting process for the rip rap project.

Dan DeLorenzo liked the idea of the town partnering with local marinas for the dredging project. The committee agreed that this makes sense for all involved.

Matt B. asked where Dan DeLorenzo and the Danversport Yacht Club stands with the sediment problem they have encountered after the completion of the Liberty Street Bridge project. Dan said nothing has happened with the contractor to date in rectifying the problem and Dan said they disagree with their findings.

Chris stated that the Waters River Bridge is now 95% complete. The only thing remaining to be done at this point is installing the ornamental lighting.

The Mass Bay Rail Bridge project opted to change a few of their August closure dates to accommodate boaters, however some boaters had already changed their plans based on the original closure schedule and ultimately ended up stuck due to the closure date changes. This was unfortunate but the Chris feels they were truly trying to help the situation. Committee members said they have heard the train will start to run in the next week or so. The project should be completed soon.

Old Business:

Chris noted that the Speaker Program the River Committee will be hosting is booked for the Senior Center on Tuesday Sept. 19th. Mike Armstrong will be the speaker. Bill F. had a draft of the flyer for the event for the committee to review before he prints and distributes the flyer in the community. Chris said he will consider the Recreation Department managing the registration online, in office and over the phone for the event. Chris asked the committee what the maximum number of attendees should be set at. Bill F. said the max would be 200. Bill asked if someone could consider placing a press release in the local papers. Also, Bob M. offered to deliver flyers to local marinas and businesses that would be willing to post the flyers.

Chris told the group that mooring vacancy notices have been sent out to those on the waitlist. Four moorings have been filled to date and he thinks they will fill four more shortly; hat will fill the available mooring spaces for now.

The Mass Harbormasters Port Security Grant for installation of security cameras has a lot of support at the state and local level. Cameras are currently being installed in some of the priority communities. Chris said the cameras are of an incredible quality and is looking forward to installation in Danvers.

New Business:

Chris has started the process to acquire new motors for the 19' patrol boat and the pump out boat is underway. He is currently considering Suzuki & Yamaha outboards for replacements. They are hoping to get away from Honda outboards as they have had issues with these in the past. The 19' boat needs an increase in horsepower based on the manufacturer's recommendations so they hope to accommodate this with the replacement motor.

Matt B. asked Chris if he has had any conversations with the Town Manager about replacing the 25' patrol boat. Chris said that he personally has not, but he believes David Mountain, Recreation Director and Karen Nelson, Director of Planning and Human Services have and will continue to pursue it.

Matt also asked if the problem of dumping shopping carts in the river behind the Motel on Endicott St. still existed. Chris said since the river was cleaned up a few years ago he believes there has not been a problem, but will check on it to confirm. He noted that since the homeless are no longer being housed in that motel the problem has subsided as they were a contributing factor.

Motion: Motion made by Bill Fouhey, seconded by Matt Byrne, to adjourn the meeting of August 10, 2017. All in favor: 5:0

cc: Steve Bartha, Town Manager
Karen Nelson, Director of Planning and Human Services
David Mountain, Recreation Director