

**Danvers River Committee**  
**Thursday September 14, 2017**  
**Meeting Minutes**

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday September 14, 2017 in the Town Manager's Conference Room, Danvers Town Hall, at 6:00 pm.

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

**Member(s) absent:** Dan DeLorenzo  
Louis George

**Staff Present:** Christopher Sanborn, Harbormaster  
Carolann Powers, Secretary

**Media Present:** None

Aileen L'Abbe called meeting called to order at 6:07pm.

**Secretary's Report:**

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the, August 10, 2017 meeting.

**Motion:** Made by Matt Byrne, seconded by Bob Moore to accept the minutes of the August 10, 2017 meeting; All in favor 5:0.

**Harbormaster's Report:**

Chris Sanborn, deferred updating the committee with the Harbormaster's Report to the Old & New Business sections of the meeting, to avoid duplication, as these items in his report were to be covered in these areas.

**Old Business:**

Chris update committee on status of speaker event that the River Committee is hosting on September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center.

Bob Moore asked if there was any help from the committee that would be needed that night. Bill Fouhey said he could use some help setting up the room ahead of time. Bill will also follow up with the Salem News regarding promoting the event. Bill also communicated with the Danvers Herald, they too will promote the event in their

publication and in addition will send a reporter to cover the event. Bill with the help of Dan DeLorenzo and other committee members have distributed the flyer promoting the event around town at local businesses and marinas etc... It will also be posted on all the bulletin boards in municipal buildings in town. Chris will also send it out to all boaters in town this upcoming week. Bill thanked committee for their help in organizing this event

Chris Sanborn said the outboard motor has been replaced on the whaler. The Pump Out Boat is at the shop having its motor replace. The town went with Suzuki motors for both boats. Aileen asked how long the motors are warrantied. Chris could not quote for certain but said with municipal use the warranties are less than consumer, he estimated 2-3 years for the warranty period, but would confirm for sure for the next River Committee meeting. He noted the motors came in at \$7K less than other quotes for similar product.

The Massachusetts Harbormaster's Association port security grant for camera installation is now moving quickly. This is a FEMA grant for the Harbormasters Association. Installation will begin shortly in Danvers for these port security cameras. This is part of a \$1 million grant & matched funds by state for an additional \$1 million plus a possible additional \$600 from FEMA. The grant covers all ports from the New Hampshire border to the Cape Cod Canal. Chris clarified that it is a FEMA grant not a homeland security grant. Because of geographic nature of the Danvers waterfront, Danvers will be receiving six cameras plus a camera on the Kernwood Bridge pointing in the Danvers direction. Gardner Trask asked who would have access to these cameras and their footage and asked if it could be viewed by other communities. Chris stated that the Coast Guard has access to all the community's cameras but access to Danvers cameras by outside communities has to be approved by his office. Joan asked when installation will happen. Chris said LanTel, the installation company, is ready to go we're just finalizing some agreements.

Aileen noted that the Crane River is not a location for installation with this security camera project for installation. Chris said currently it is not, but if the additional FEMA grant for another \$600k is awarded they can hopefully they can install at that location. Chris noted that all the cameras to be installed can be integrated into the existing camera system at the harbor, which currently consists 7 cameras, so after the additional installation the town will have a total of 14 cameras. Bill Fouhey asked Chris to confirm that it will just be Harbormaster's and local law enforcement that has access to these cameras. Chris said yes. The Danvers Police Department will have remote access to these cameras. The goal is to have these cameras installed prior to winter. Chris is pleased with this project and thinks it is a good thing for the Town.

Matt Byrne asked about the "speed bump" in the Danvers River referring to some shoaling issues in the river around Liberty Marina where there is a drop off in water depth. Chris said there doesn't appear to be any significant changes to the water depth in this area, but it will have to be addressed in our next dredging cycle.

Bill Fouhey asked if Chris had heard anything more from town engineer about the possibility of piggybacking the Crane River Bank Stabilization design and engineering onto an existing open contractor for another town project. Chris said the Town Engineer would like to see the town use a different contractor that would be more cost effective, and may not need an additional RFP. The town will pursue this quote over the winter months.

### **New Business:**

Aileen L'Abbe asked Chris about status of current geese control in Danvers, she had concerns about killing geese and donating meat to food pantries etc... Chris assured the committee that Danvers is not killing geese, Danvers is not participating in this type of geese control plan.

Bill F. asked Chris about his request approximately two years ago to install ladders at the Crane River marina which he felt was a great safety/security feature. Bill F asked if we could install a ladder on the dingy dock area as there was recently an accident at the marina with a boater boarding his dingy. Chris said they have talked about this possibility since this accident. Chris will continue to pursue the possibility of installation.

Chris mentioned the Division of Marine Fisheries offers a \$15K annual grant for improving public access to fishing. Chris did has reached out to Dr. Armstrong at the Division of Marine Fisheries to see if he had any ideas as he is a Danvers resident. Chris asked the committee if they have any ideas as this grant comes across his desk each year and he would like to apply and take advantage of it if possible this year. Gardner Trask asked what happened with the negotiations with New England Home for the Deaf regarding acquiring property for a fishing pier. Chris Sanborn said the Town had paid for an appraisal of the property which came back far lower than what the New England Home Deaf wanted for the property. The Town and the New England Home for the Deaf came to an impasse. Chris noted it was a shame it didn't happen as the state was willing to fund nearly 100% the project. Chris suggested the possibility of installing a boardwalk along the Dunkin Donuts property on Water St under this grant. He will investigate who owns this property and pursue the possibility of public access. Bob Moore was somewhat concerned about it not being the best fishing spot due to current/s in that area of the river. Chris said perhaps, but still may be a viable option for a boardwalk with public access to fishing locations.

Matt Byrne also suggested the possibility on the Eastern Propane side of Water St. Bridge as a location. Chris said he believed that Eastern Propane owns that property and it likely would not be an option.

Gardner Trask asked if in order to be awarded the grant does the location have to be on the river. Chris said it does as the Division of Marine Fisheries only covers salt water bodies of water.

Aileen L. asked if MBTA bridge repairs are complete. Chris Sanborn said in regard to the impact on boaters the project is complete.

Gardner Trask asked if there was to be a discussion about the pier that resident Winthrop Knox inquired about, he said Mr. Knox may want to modify his existing pier. Chris said as far as he knows the Conservation Commission will hear this proposal in October. Chris said Mr. Knox has gone before the ConCom seeking a Certificate of Compliance for his pier. Through this process it was determined the pier was installed longer than was approved in the plan. Further, Mr. Knox never certified his c.91 license after the installation thereby making it null and void. Chris attended the August ConCom to address Mr. Knox's pier but also other projects that have recently come before the ConCom for COC that did not conform to the original design. Bob M. asked who regulates this. Chris S. said it is the responsibility of the property owner to build in accordance to the plan submitted and approved. Ultimately, the ConCom, DEP and Army Corp of Engineer's have regulatory responsibility. Gardner T. asked if it is a Town or State responsibility to inspect or regulate this and said perhaps fines should be instituted for those who deviate from their original approved plan. Gardner asked Chris to look into this.

**Motion:** Motion made by Bob Moore, seconded by Bill Fouhey, to adjourn the meeting of September 14, 2017. All in favor: 5:0

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