

Danvers River Committee
Thursday July 19, 2018
Meeting Minutes

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday July 19, 2018 Daniel J. Toomey Hearing Room, Danvers Town Hall, at 6:00pm.

Member(s) present: Joan George
Bob Moore
Matthew Byrne
Louie George
Bill Nicholson
Gardner Trask, Selectman Liaison

Member(s) absent: Aileen L'Abbe, Chairwoman
Dan DeLorenzo
Bill Fouhey

Staff Present: Christopher Sanborn, Harbormaster
Carolann Powers, Secretary

Media Present: None

Other: Wayne Parker
Nathan Parker

Matt Byrne called meeting called to order at 6:03 pm.

Secretary's Report:

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2018 meeting.

Motion: Made by Joan George, seconded by Louie George to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2018; All in favor 5:0.

New Business:

Aileen was not present at the meeting but had asked Chris to inquire with the River Committee members regarding any volunteer opportunities they may be interested in participating in to better the river.

Mr. Wayne Parker and his grandson Nathan came to the meeting to propose a project to help clean up river. His grandson is entering his senior year at Danvers High School and all students are required to complete forty hours of community service to graduate. Nathan would like to implement a community service project to clean up the River and the surrounding area that high school students can participate in that in return would

count toward their graduation requirement. Chris and the River Committee members commended Nathan for being proactive and coming up with a project.

Nathan stated that he and his grandfather have been cleaning up the river for some time now and thought expanding their efforts through this project would be mutually beneficial for the town and the students who volunteer. The River Committee members asked Nathan and his grandfather to date typically what type of trash/items they find in the river. They said all sorts of items but have removed a lot of Styrofoam from older mooring floats; in addition to that they have removed a lot of bottles.

Chris updated to committee on the status of the memorial bench program at Popes Landing. He stated that all the benches at Popes Landing will have their legs replaced as the aluminum on them is oxidizing. The benches are not that old and this should not be happening. It is suspected that the salt water and sea air is contributing to this premature oxidation. After some back and forth with the company who manufactures the benches the company has agreed to replace the legs.

Matt Byrne asked about the possibility of having the new bench legs double coated prior to installation in hopes of preventing the premature oxidizing in the future. Chris said this is not likely as the memorial bench program is a donation program and there is no line item available in the town budget to pay for this additional cost.

Chris updated the committee regarding new employees with the Harbormaster's Office. Daniel Cashman is a new Assistant Harbormaster. Michael Czarnecki was promoted from pumpout boat operator to Assistant Harbormaster following completion of the police academy. Michael is a Danvers resident and Massachusetts Maritime graduate. Chris said his office currently has seven Assistant Harbormasters, and three new pump out boat operators as well as the Deputy Harbormaster, Dave Arathuzik. Chris also mentioned that all life guard positions are currently filled.

Chris asked the committee members to please let him know if they hear any public comment regarding the beach quality. The water quality has been great this year. It is tested once a week and all levels have been within state standings.

Louie G. asked what if any policy is in place regarding of dogs off leash at the beach or in the water. Chris said the town by-law is all dogs must be on leash in all public places and parks other than the Dog Park.

Gardner T. informed the committee that at the next Selectmen's meeting the board will be addressing the current code of conduct for all boards and committees. He noted there have been some changes made to the policy to include social media. Policies have been updated to keep up with the times and technology.

Peter Clement attended the meeting and had some concerns about public access in regard to some new condos that are proposed on Florence St. It is his understanding that the

developers want to use access on Hardy St. for these condos. This concerns Pete and he would like the committee to consider looking into this and supporting his concern about the town potentially losing this waterfront access to the Porter River. Gardner T. suggested Mr. Clement visit the Assessor's Office to see current maps as the view of the public access areas may be clearer than those on the older maps he is viewing. Chris and Gardner T. said the access points he is referring to may be town property and any granted access to developers to it would need to go before the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and the and Zoning Board of Appeals. Chris said he will bring this to Aaron Henry's attention as Director of Land Use and Community Services.

Matt B. spoke of the Water's Street Bridge, the signs on the bridge now say it is the Danversport Bridge, he was curious is this official. Chris S. said yes, Andrea Daily proposed this name change to the State, and it was accepted. She is hopeful that there will be a bridge dedication scheduled at some point in the future. Matt hopes that once officially dedicated that new, nicer signage can be placed on the bridge.

Chris updated committee on status of Crane River bank stabilization project. He noted that it is moving along slowly as CDM Smith Company is waiting on documents/plans from Vine Associates Inc. who previously permitted the marina. Joan George asked if there is timeline of approval for the project. Chris S. said he cannot say for sure, but CDM hopes to be done in time for the town to request funds for the project through appropriation at next year's annual town meeting.

The Mass Harbormasters Association/FEMA cameras are in process of being installed. The contractor is currently working with Danvers Electric to get the cameras up and running. The two existing cameras that were at the Crane River Marina will be tied into the FEMA cameras saving the town approx. \$800 a year.

Matt Byrne asked if there are any cameras or fire alarm pull stations at John George Park? Chris said not currently but he will explore this possibility.

Chris noted Mr. Knox's permit issue for his pier project is ongoing. The Army Corp has issued him a violation and he is now required to update the pier and be in compliance with the Army Corp requirements. The town does not have jurisdiction here but is working with the Federal Government/Army Corp of Engineers (specifically with Sarah Wilkerson) regarding this concern. Chris Sanborn noted this is a federal violation but the town will support them in any way needed.

Chris Sanborn told the committee that he has respond to Andrea Daly's email regarding her concerns with Mr. Knox's pier project and the violation notice issued. He noted that he copied Steve Bartha & Aaron Henry on his email reply to inform her the town is in receipt of the notice of violation issued to Mr. Knox from the Army Corp of Engineers.

Bill Nicholson inquired as to the status of the empty lot next to Sandy Beach. Chris S. said the town is interested in the lot and Sandy Beach itself for potential future projects.

Several ideas for the area have been proposed but nothing has been announced as funding is not available at this time.

Matt B. asked if the Hardy Street area would be a possibility as public access for a fishing pier. The committee members thought this is likely not the best spot on river for fishing.

Pete Clement asked about the possibility of a public fishing pier in the area of the Water Street Dunkin Donuts. Chris S. said Bill Fouhey and the committee have inquired about this possibility before and he is currently researching who owns the land to see if it is feasible.

Motion: Motion made by Bob Moore, seconded by Bill Nicholson, to adjourn the meeting of July 19, 2018. All in favor: 5:0

cc: Steve Bartha, Town Manager
David Mountain, Recreation Director