

Danvers River Committee
Thursday August 16, 2018
Meeting Minutes

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday August 16, 2018 in the Town Manager's Conference Room, Danvers Town Hall, at 6:00pm.

Member(s) present: Aileen L'Abbe, Chairwoman
Joan George
Dan DeLorenzo
Bob Moore
Matthew Byrne
Louie George
Bill Nicholson
Bob Moore

Member(s) absent: Bill Fouhey
Gardner Trask, Selectman Liaison

Staff Present: Christopher Sanborn, Harbormaster
Carolann Powers, Secretary

Media Present: None

Aileen L'Abbe called meeting called to order at 6:05 pm.

Secretary's Report:

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the July 19, 2018 meeting.

Motion: Made by Bill Nicholson, seconded by Louie George to accept the minutes of the July 19, 2018; All in favor 8:0.

New Business:

Aileen L. reviewed and discussed with the committee the possibilities for projects to improve Sandy Beach and the vacant lot next to it on River Street. She discussed revitalizing the area to utilize it for rental for special events such as birthday parties, weddings etc.... She said she envisions something similar to what they have at Forest River Park in Salem. Chris stated that at the May Town Meeting they approved funding for a feasibility study for this area, including a splash pad and a covered pavilion. Chris said he, Nick Campion, Assistant Recreation Director & Aaron Henry, Director of Land Use & Community Development will be part of this team reviewing the possibilities. Chris noted that he does not think the town would be interested in offering functions at

this location. They do not want to develop this parcel to that extent but will develop it for other great uses. Louis G. was asking about restriction as to what that parcel can be used for. Chris said he is not aware of the restrictions but will take that into account when they do the feasibility study. Any building projects would be more on the Sandy Beach property and the existing adjacent lot will likely be used for parking. Dan D. asked about the existing house in the nearby horseshoe area. Chris said that property had recently changed hands and he assumes the new owners would not be interested in selling. Chris stated that all conceptual plans will be presented to the neighbors and homeowners in the area prior to moving forward. Chris noted that the town currently has several proposed development plans in town and this is on the list; however, these projects will be prioritized.

Aileen acknowledged all of Joan George's hard work at the John George Park and commended her for all that she does to maintain and beautify the park. Aileen asked if any of the committee members would like to volunteer to assist her. In addition, Matt Byrne suggested that she seek high school volunteers who may be interested in helping for community service hours. Joan said it is great that the high school students want to help but they are not willing or able to be there every day and she is ideally looking for regular/daily volunteers; but is happy to accept any help that she can get. Aileen suggested that any volunteers have knowledge of gardening and landscaping.

Louie asked if there is there any way we can encourage any of the high school students to volunteer to help with the islands at John George Park

Aileen L. asked Chris Sanborn about the Memorial Bench Program in town. Chris explained the program, the price and the process of the program and informed the group how to go about applying for a memorial bench.

Chris Sanborn informed the committee of the Storm Water Management Program. Steve King, Town Engineer, would like to attend the September River Committee Meeting to address the storm water run-off into the town's rivers and streams. The town is required as part of the Storm Water Management Program to hold public meetings regarding this and in addition to reporting at an upcoming Selectmen's meeting he would like to present to the River Committee in September.

Dan DeLorenzo stated that the water quality at the beach this season has been good even after heavy rains or storms which is a good sign.

Chris reminded the committee of the New Code of Conduct that the Board of Selectmen recently adopted for boards and committees and asked that all members of the River Committee confirm that they are in receipt of it and have reviewed the new policy. If anyone has any questions Chris said he will be happy to assist them.

Bill Nicholson mentioned that the City of Salem recently received a Grant from the Seaport Advisory Council and he was wondering if Danvers was eligible for such a grant. Chris said yes, but typically this particular type of grant that Salem received is reserved

for larger ports and large projects, but said ultimately yes, Danvers would be eligible but Danvers would reserve application for such a grant for larger projects such as the Bank Stabilization at the Crane River and or the next dredging project.

Aileen asked if there have been any mishaps related to dredging concerns in the river this season. Chris said no.

Old Business:

Chris updated the group on the status of the Crane River Bank Stabilization project. The town working to obtain CAD drawings from Vine GZA, who previously licensed the floats at the marina. In addition, this Vine GZA may now have to be allowed to bid on the bank stabilization project as they hold the plans from the previous job. The town has access to the plans that were submitted for the licensing process but in order to draw up plans for the bank stabilization at the marina the town may need to purchase the previous plans for bank stabilization from Vine GZA. Matt B. was asked if the town would already have rights to these plans as part of their original contract with Vine GZA, otherwise the town and the anticipated contractor, CD Smith, will need to start from scratch.

Chris updated the group on the committee's concern brought up at the last month's River Committee meeting re: the possibility of Hardy Street access to the river for a new housing development planned for that area. Chris said he spoke to Aaron Henry, Director of Land use and Community Development, regarding this concern and to date he is not aware of any proposal moving forward and said this project is in the infancy stage and would need approval for development if it were to be proposed.

Chris Sanborn updated the committee on the status of the MHA (Mass Harbormaster's Association) Camera System. All cameras are installed, and he thanked our neighbors at the Danversport Yacht Club and the Liberty Marina for their cooperation with this project. There are currently 6 cameras in Danvers. These cameras record for 30 days then they overwrite. The Danvers Police and the Coast Guard have access to these cameras. These cameras will link into a larger system to include surrounding community's cameras who participate in this program, but the entire network is not yet complete, once complete the signal will be one large cohesive system that the Coast Guard can access and see all harbors. Louie George asked if system is encrypted is it safe from hacking. Chris to his understanding yes.

Aileen asked what the process is for hiring assistant harbormasters. Chris informed the group on the requirements, to include an application, background check, police academy certification etc.

Louis G. asked if Chris had any new information regarding the status of Mr. Knox's pier project and the case with the Army Corp. of Engineers. Chris said he has not had any updates.

Motion: Motion made by Bill Nicholson, seconded by Matt Byrne, to adjourn the meeting of August 16, 2018. All in favor: 8:0

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