

Danvers River Committee
Thursday, May 17, 2018
Meeting Minutes

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2018 Daniel J. Toomey Hearing Room, Danvers Town Hall, at 6:00pm.

Member(s) present: Aileen L'Abbe, Chairwoman
Bill Fouhey
Joan George
Dan DeLorenzo
Bob Moore
Louie George
Matthew Byrne
Gardner Trask, Selectman Liaison

Member(s) absent: none

Staff Present: Christopher Sanborn, Harbormaster
Carolann Powers, Secretary

Media Present: None

Aileen L'Abbe called meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

Secretary's Report:

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

Motion: Made by Bill Fouhey, seconded by Dan DeLorenzo to accept the minutes of the April 19, 2018; All in favor 7:0.

New Business:

Aileen wants to know who owns the land near Dunkin Donuts on Water Street as she was curious about two sailboats that were moored in the water in that area of the Waters River for the winter. She wanted to know who the boats belonged to. No one on the committee was aware of this or noticed these sailboats there this past winter.

Sailboats in the water would fall under the jurisdiction of the town. Chris said it is possible that there were sailboats in the river this winter a little further down at the Liberty Marina, but to his knowledge there was nothing else in that area.

Bill Fouhey reminded the group that the committee was already looking into who owns that property to inquire about the possibility of constructing a fishing area there. Chris Sanborn is researching and investigating who owns the property. He believes that the Dunkin Donuts owner may own the land as well, but believes that there is an easement there owned by the Tennessee Gas Pipe line. This property is located at approximately 130-132 Water Street. Louie George & Chris Sanborn said they can look into the property at the register of deeds.

Chris told the committee that all but two slips have been filled at the Crane River Marina. The Harbormaster's Office had been working off a waitlist of 33 to fill any open spots. He anticipates all vacancies will be filled.

Dan DeLorenzo asked if those on the waitlist choose to pass up on the current offer for a space at the marina and remain on the waitlist is there a time limit as to how long they can remain on the waitlist. Chris said no, but typically they remain on list for another year. Dan D. suggested that we make it a policy that if they pass on their offer for an open slip that they can remain on the waitlist for one additional year. It was also discussed that a fee be charged to remain on the list.

Matt Byrne asked if people pass on the waitlist do they drop to bottom of the list. Chris S. said technically yes, but the process we have now is not a perfect system. He stated they are looking to manage the waitlist a little differently moving forward, The committee discussed the possibility of implementing a fee to remain of the waitlist and will revisit it in the fall while establishing fees for the following year.

Aileen said a few years back the committee voted to no longer sponsor the Santa by Sea event. She was wondering if the committee could consider joining the Recreation Division as joint partners. The committee discussed that the town and the Friends of Danvers Recreation are committed to the Santa by Sea event and will look to the River Committee for support in helping with the event that day, but the River Committee will not be involved in the management of the event as the event was taking up a large amount of the committee's time throughout the year which was keeping them from addressing other matters in regard the river. The committee all agreed they are all still on board with supporting the event as individuals on their own time but not as a committee.

Old Business:

Chris updated the group on the Crane River Marina bank stabilization project. CDM Smith Associates will be selected to do the design and engineering phase. Chris has had several site visits with them and said they will be sure to include updating the licensing and permitting for the pier as well as any additional updates that need to be made to that area along with the bank stabilization permitting. The time frame for permitting is estimated to be within 6-8 months. At minimum a cost estimate for the construction of the project should be available by May of next year. Bill Nicholson asked what material will be used in this bank stabilization project. Chris Sanborn said it will be a hybrid combination of stones and plants which has been approved in other locations in the past

by the Army Corp of Engineers and the State DEP. He said this project will be similar to a project CDM Smith had completed at Forest River Park in Salem, MA. It is very large stones at base of stone revetment with smaller stones near the mean high tide line and plantings in between stones.

Bill Fouhey asked if the proposal of new bathrooms at the Crane River Marina would be included within the scope of this project. Chris S. said the bathrooms are no longer part of this project as he believes it may further delay the bank stabilization by including it.

Chris reminded the group that Frank Hershedy came to a meeting on behalf of his condo association in the past year to propose the idea of piggybacking on the town's bank stabilization plans at the Crane River Marina, in hope of extending the stabilization to the area in front of their condos. However, the engineers discouraged this proposal as it would slow down the permitting process for the town and subject the project to more scrutiny. Chris Sanborn said he did ask how we could limit erosion that may affect the condo's waterfront area. The engineers said there is a way to build the project in such a way that would redirect the water to help alleviate erosion in the condo area. Chris will share all the information they bring to the town with the committee.

Chris stated to date there has been 550 Waterways Permits issued. The Harbormaster's Office is still chasing down some stragglers, but to date he feels we are ahead of the game in regard to renewals.

Chris thanked the committee for their input in regard to the Brown's Pond Soil removal. As of right now the soil will be stored at Canal St.

Bill Fouhey asked Chris if he had any new information regarding the dredging plan. Chris Sanborn said they've appropriated through Town Meeting \$20,000 for the last three years totaling \$60,000 in funds. Bill Fouhey asked if the dredging project could be accelerated if the river falls into an unnavigable state before the next dredging project is to be completed.

Chris S. reminded the committee that all of the waterways fee income goes toward dredging the fund. Matt Byrne said perhaps we consider an increase to the slips fees. Chris Sanborn agreed with this thought process but said we do not want to increase the fee too much, it may not be the right time or that, as we don't want to drive them away from Danvers.

Matt B. asked Chris Sanborn if he thinks the non-boating members of the community may eventually question why they are paying/contributing to this cause through taxes. Chris said perhaps some community members may feel this way but overall it benefits them indirectly.

Aileen asked how much money that is collected from waterfront revenue goes to the general fund. Chris said approximately \$120,000 annually goes to the general fund.

Motion: Motion made by Bill Fouhey, seconded by Matt Byrne, to adjourn the meeting of May 17, 2018. All in favor: 7:0

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