

Danvers River Committee
Thursday September 19, 2019
Meeting Minutes

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday, 2019 Town Manager's Conference Room, Danvers Town Hall, at 6:00pm.

Member(s) present: Joan George
Dan DeLorenzo, Vice Chair
Matthew Byrne
Louie George
Bill Nicholson
Gardner Trask, Selectman Liaison

Member(s) absent: Bob Moore
Bill Fouhey
Aileen L'Abbe, Chairwoman

Staff Present: Christopher Sanborn, Harbormaster
Carolann Powers, Secretary

Media Present: None

Dan DeLorenzo called meeting called to order at 6:05 pm.

Secretary's Report:

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the August 15, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Made by Bill Nicholson, seconded by Louie George, to accept the minutes of the August 15, 2019; All in favor 5:0.

New Business:

Chris informed the committee that he had just concluded a waterways violation appeal hearing for a boater who was disputing a violation he received for failure to obtain a waterways permit. Chris said these hearings are made up of a panel of three. Two town hall employees and a member of the River Committee. Matt B. represented the Committee at this hearing. Chris opens the hearing stating the reason for violation and applicable laws and the person requesting a hearing then presents his case. Chris said if any other members were interested in serving in this capacity at future hearings to let him know. Matt B. discussed his experience at today's hearing and the River Committee members seemed interested and willing to participate in the future.

Old Business:

Chris updated the committee on the status of Mr. Rowell's inquiry/request to store his commercial lobster traps on town land. It doesn't sound like the landfill is an option. The

only possible area at landfill that could potentially work would be the brush dump and the timeframe that is needed to store the traps in is the same season the brush dump is in use. Chris said there were some concerns with other suggested storage areas, some of them would be in use during the time of year the Lobstermen would need the area and there were concerns with rodent attraction at other locations. Mr. Rowell keeps his traps very clean, but others may not be as meticulous, which could create a problem. Chris inquired with other communities that offer storage solutions to commercial fisherman and learned that the town of Rockport's storage is restricted to residents only. Marblehead will allow storage for non-residents; and has offered Mr. Rowell space. Louie George asked if Marblehead has experienced any problem with his program. Chris said yes, they have had rodent issues. The local Board of Health mandated rodent trapping in those storage areas and the town was also concerned with the height of trap stacks. Matt Byrne stated the he did not think it would be wise for town of Danvers to allow any type of storage options for Commercial Fisherman or others without imposing strict requirements regarding rodent trapping and other concerns. Chris said the town is trying to find a solution for Mr. Rowell. The Town wants to support the Commercial Fisherman as much as they can. There are only 2 active lobstermen in Danvers that Chris is aware of and if the town can support them, they will.

Chris gave the committee a brief update regarding the Crane River Marina bank stabilization project. The town recently met with the new representative at CDM to update him and make the town's wishes known for that area; that the town wants a stone revetment or hybrid solution. The town hopes to push forward with a plan for this project but noted it is costly to do so and doing so could exhaust the money we are working with for this phase. Chris S. he would love to have a representative from CDM come to a River Committee meeting to update them on the project but noted there is a cost associated with that and since funds are tight, he will do his best to continue to update the committee. If he is unable to do this effectively, he will consider inviting CDM to a River Committee meeting.

Chris noted the that the Electric Light Division installed all new upgraded LED lighting in the parking lot lights at Popes Landing. They replaced some of the light poles that were damaged by snow plows this past winter. Louie G. asked if there was any type of reimbursement to his department for this damage. Chris said no.

Chris stated work on the project at 63 Riverview Ave. has begun. Bill Manuel is their consultant on the project, he is the same consultant on the 15 Mead Street project. Both projects are similar in that they will encroach into the river. Chris said that Planning Staff has been out to the 63 Riverview Ave. site to discuss issues and concerns with the project. At this time Chris assumes that the 15 Mead Street project is still in the permitting process. If he hears anything further, he will update the committee. Depending on the approval timeframe work on the project may not be able to begin until after the winter months when it is more suitable for construction.

Matt B. said he noticed the 25' Harbormaster Patrol Boat is out of the water. Chris S. said yes, it needed some barnacle removal and in addition somewhat related to the

barnacles it was having an overheating issue. While out of the water in addition to the barnacle removal they painted the boat.

Dan DeLorenzo informed the group that the demand for winter boat storage is up at Danversport Marina and in addition they have an increased demand for summer slips. He noted currently boaters are aggressively pursuing their options. He said this is the first year in many they are seeing this and suspects the Town Marina will see the same. He said that Danversport Marina was filled this year, but not until the start of summer, but now people are aggressively pursuing storage for next season. Louie asked if they typically fill to capacity for winter storage. Dan D. said yes.

Chris S. said he was curious about the demand for winter boat storage; he asked Dan D. if there is a need for more of it if in town. Chris floated the idea of the town offering winter storage in back lot at Popes Landing but made it clear that at this point he was just curious and doesn't want to compete with private businesses. Dan said people come long distances to store with them which leads him to think there may be a need. Chris S. said it may be something for the committee to discuss at future meetings. Louie G. questioned if neighbors in the Popes Landing area would oppose the concept. Matt B. expressed concerns with security. Chris said currently there are no cameras on that lot but could have cameras installed on that lot if they were to do this. Chris and Matt thought trailer storage may work there, for smaller boats i.e.: 25' boats or less. Matt said perhaps the service should be open to Danvers residents only first and then open to others. It was noted that this wouldn't be so much of a money maker but more of an effort to offer a service to boaters that is needed. Matt said the town would likely have to verify that all boats stored there were insured etc....Chris said the boats/boaters would have to go through a similar requirement process as they do at the Town's Crane River Marina in season. Another concern that arose was that boaters may want to work on boats while in storage prior to putting them in the water, the committee agreed that work can't be done on site and that would need to be clearly stated in a contract, it would be strictly for storage purpose. In addition, the contract should state no shrink-wrapping boats on site. Dan D. noted all shrink wrappers must be certified to perform that job due to safety issue Chris said he will do some more research on this and discuss it with committee at the October meeting.

Motion: Motion made by Joan George, seconded by Loie George, to adjourn the meeting of September 19, 2019. All in favor: 5:0

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