

Danvers River Committee
Thursday April 18, 2019
Meeting Minutes

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2019 in the Danvers Town Hall, at 6:00pm.

Member(s) present: Dan DeLorenzo
Bill Nicholson
Joan George
Bob Moore
Matt Byrne
Louis George
Bill Fouhey
Garden Trask, Selectman Liaison

Member(s) absent: Aileen L'Abbe, Chairwoman

Staff Present: Christopher Sanborn, Harbormaster
Carolann Powers, Secretary

Media Present: None

Called meeting called to order at 6:02 pm.

Secretary's Report:

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the January 17, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Made by Bill Nicholson, seconded by Bill Fouhey to accept the minutes of the January 17, 2019; All in favor 7:0.

Harbormaster's Report:

New Business:

Chris presented the Town's Annual Report, he distributed copies to each member that did not already have it. Chris pointed out page 18 to the group, the Danvers Harbor page, and page 19, the Annual Report for the River Committee.

Chris informed the group that new floats were delivered for the Crane River Marina. He noted funding is now available some delay in purchase as funding had to be re-allocated in FY17 and FY18. He informed the committee that the floats have been installed. Bill F. noted that the new ladders installed on the docks look great.

Chris updated the committee regarding summer employment opportunities within the Harbormaster's Office. Kyle Malm has been hired an Assistant Harbormaster. Kyle is a

Reserve Officer in the Town of Ipswich and a graduate of Danvers High School, as well as Salem State University. The Harbormaster's Office will also be hiring two lifeguards for the season and two Pumpout Boat Operators. It was noted that candidates for Pumpout Boat Operator need boat handling experience and must be over the age of 18.

The Office of Natural Resources now also oversees Open Space Parcels in Town, Endicott Park in addition to the Harbor. "We're growing" Chris said.

Old Business:

Chris updated the committee regarding the Crane River Shoreline Stabilization project. The Town has contracted with CDM Smith for the design and engineering phase of the project. They have hit the ground running and this phase of the project is underway. They have scheduled a pre-engineering meeting with the state regarding the project. The Town, DEP and Army Corp of Engineers will meet regarding the project. Once CDM Smith learns more, their representatives will attend a River Committee meeting to update the group on the project.

Chris also updated the group on the status of the 2019 waterways permit fee collections. "We're having a very successful year with online renewals. To date approximately 450 permits processed to date. It looks like a lot of boaters are returning to Danvers this season." This year, the Crane River Marina currently has five open slips. The waitlist has been exhausted, and we are looking to fill these slips. Dan DeLorenzo asked how open slips are marketed. Chris S. said they will market through the town website, social media and email marketing campaigns. Matt Byrne asked if this has to do with the amenities offered in Danvers. Chris S. said he's not sure, but noted the economy is on the rise and some people may be moving to other marinas with more amenities.

Chris informed the group about the status of the FY20 budget regarding the harbor. The budget process is fluid and there has been a lot of changes, up and downs. Bill N. note that this budget season the town was \$15K away from hitting the state levy cap for the first time. That means a lot of proposed projects won't funded in this budget as there is not a lot of money available for them. Chris noted the operating budget for the Harbormaster's Officer increased by \$500.

Items that need to be addressed in this or upcoming year's budget included: Capital Equipment; the Harbormaster's Office is need of a new 25' boat to replace the aging 1987 Winninghoff patrol/fire boat. Chris stated the request for \$225K in funding for this purchase was cut back to \$27K. These funds will be earmarked and carried over into next year's budget and we will do the same next year, if needed. Louie G. asked if we have reassurance that it is set aside. Chris S. said yes. Swim & regulatory buoys require replacement and will be funded out of this year's and next year's operating budgets.

Chris noted that as of this week, he learned the hydraulic lines on the 25ft. patrol boat are rotted and need to be replaced. To do this, the whole engine needs to be removed due to

the design of the diesel stern drive. This boat is 32 years old and is hard to repair. Chris noted without these hydraulic lines you can't trim the motor up, but he said the boat is still usable, however this greatly limits its usage and accessibility to many areas of the river. Chris said they can keep boat in emergency status, keep it at the dock, "baby it", and use the other patrol boat keeping the 25ft. boat for an emergency, they will not use for regular patrol, and will deploy it only if needed in reserve in an emergency. Chris noted this issue with the hydraulic lines is one more reason why the town will get away from a diesel stern drive engine with the new purchase as those are costly to maintain and repair.

Dan DeLorenzo asked about the buoys at the center of the river channel, the ones with the lights on them...Chris said those are no wake markers and will be replaced next year.

Bill N. asked if Chris was aware that some boaters are revving their engines in certain areas of the river. Chris S. said yes, and these reports are likely local marine service companies testing boats that are being serviced. Typically, those marinas call the Harbormaster's Office prior to doing this to inform us. They know to perform these tests only between the two red buoys.

Regarding warrant articles in the budget, Chris said he spoke at a recent Board of Selectmen meeting re: maintenance dredging, crane river bank stabilization & the revolving account budget.

Chris noted that the next maintenance dredging project is slated for 2027. We are looking to earmark \$20K annually for funding permitting, design and engineering to get the project ready to apply for grant funding. The state now funds 50% of dredging costs through grants and towns are responsible to fund 50%. The state looks favorably upon applications for public/private collaboration. The permitting process will start in approximately two years. Bill Fouhey said he's not sure we will make it 2027 as the river is filling his fast.

Matt Byrne was hoping the Crane River Bank Shoreline Project will be ahead of the dredging.

Grant funding is one source of funding through the Seaport Economic Council fund, it is 50/50 funding. This would be where we look for funding for the bank stabilization project, then we would pursue funding for dredging. It was asked if this will be problematic, looking to fund two projects in short time. Joan George asked if there are any other funding sources for these projects. Chris S. said no, not at this point.

Joan G. asked if the River Committee could have a presentation at Town Meeting to justify the bank stabilization project to help get approval for the funding. Chris S. said we could, if necessary, but was not sure it's needed at this time.

Bill F. asked what CDM thinks they will use as a solution for the bank stabilization. Chris said it would likely be a hybrid solution. Bill N. said Palmers Cove in Salem has a

nice solution. Chris S. will investigate this to see if a viable option for Danvers. Bill F. asked if the Army Corp of Engineers would help with this type of project. Chris said they are involved but only in the permitting phase but not more than that.

Dan D. asked if an Army Corp representative will be at the initial meeting with CDM. Chris said no, but they will be at subsequent meetings. He noted the fact that the town signed a contract with CDM and has secured funding is a very positive step.

Matt B. asked who installed the tidal surge gauges. Chris said the US Geological Service installed them.

Bill F. asked about the security cameras that were installed. Chris said they have been good but have had some flaws with weather etc....and other factors that are out of our control.

Joan G. asked about the possibility of installing cameras viewing the John George Park? Chris S. said these cameras we are speaking of are part of a Homeland Security Grant and are required to be on harbor, but if down the road we can tie more cameras into that system perhaps a wide-angle camera could be placed towards John George Park. Joan thinks cameras would be wonderful there and Chris agrees they would be helpful. Matt B. asked if the camera feeds are viewable at local Police Departments etc.... Chris said they are intended to be but currently the town's IT Department is working on a firewall issue preventing that but are hopeful that will be corrected soon. Chris also said the feed is viewable at Popes Landing and they are recorded.

Motion: Motion made by Bob Moore, seconded by Matt Byrne, to adjourn the meeting of April 18, 2019. All in favor 7:0.

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