

Danvers River Committee
Thursday July 18, 2019
Meeting Minutes

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday July 18, 2019 Town Manager's Conference Room, Danvers Town Hall, at 6:00pm.

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

Member(s) absent: Joan George

Staff Present: Christopher Sanborn, Harbormaster
Carolann Powers, Secretary

Media Present: None

Aileen L'Abbe called meeting called to order at 6:03 pm.

Secretary's Report:

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the June 20, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Made by Louie George, seconded by Bill Nicholson to accept the minutes of the June 20, 2019 meeting; All in favor 7:0.

New Business:

Jane Fuller recently sent another letter to the Harbormaster regarding the Danversport Yacht Club Footbridge. She feels the bridge is impeding navigation in Millet Creek. The letter stated her thoughts and concerns about the footbridge. Chris Sanborn, Harbormaster, sent a letter to Ms. Fuller in response to her inquiry and shared this letter with the committee members.

Chris Sanborn asked Dan DeLorenzo, Danversport Yacht Club and committee member to give a brief history regarding the footbridge. Dan shared with the committee a brief history of the footbridge and the permits related to the project which dates back 40 years. Louie George asked if he recalled specifically when the bridge was initially built. It was

stated that it was built in the 1980's, 30+ years ago. Danversport is currently looking to close the permit out after all these years as the State had initially lost then found the permit, then lost it again and have since found the original. The permit has never been signed off on & at this time they are looking to have it signed off on and closed out. While pursuing this the State has asked Danversport to make the bridge higher/have it offer a higher clearance that could accommodate paddle boarders. Danversport initially was not looking to rebuild the bridge but will now update the bridge. The state's approval will allow DYC to make the change to the height of the bridge which they are requiring for the permit.

Louie George asked Chris if Ms. Fuller had responded to the letter he sent in response to her inquiry. He said yes, she thanked him for his thoughts and stated that she plans to attend the August Selectmen's meeting. She has asked to be on their agenda and said she did not feel she needed to attend the River Committee meeting at this point.

Motion: Made by Matt Byrne, seconded by Bill Fouhey stating the River Committee supports the Harbormaster's position as outlined in his June 27th letter to Ms. Jane Fuller regarding her inquiry about the Danversport Yacht Club's Footbridge. The committee finds no reason to feel differently based on the facts presented. All in favor 6:0 with one abstention from Dan DeLorenzo.

Bill Fouhey asked that Chris S. send the July River Committee Meeting minutes to the selectmen prior to their meeting that Ms. Fuller plans to attend.

Chris Sanborn update the committee regarding the lighting at Popes Landing. As of next week, the electric division will be replacing 2 damaged light poles & will replace all existing bulbs with new LED bulbs.

Chris informed the committee of a few incidents that have occurred recently in the harbor. He reported several boats had been broken into at the Liberty Marina. They have identified a few suspects but do not have enough evidence to charge them at this time. Since then a vessel was stolen from Liberty Marina. The Beverly Harbormaster attempted to stop the boat, not knowing at the time it was stolen, but because it was operating w/o without running lights; they fled, beached boat and ran. One suspect was apprehended and the other is being identified. In addition, after viewing some video footage of the area and some investigating, they now have 4 suspects in the break in cases and are hopeful they will identify and apprehend them.

Matt Byrne asked if the same people were involved in both incidents. Chris S. said it does not appear so.

Richard Rowell reached out to Chris to see if the town would consider renting space to him & other lobster/fisherman for storage of their commercial fishing gear, particularly lobster traps. The location he currently uses is being sold and they need a new location. Chris asked the committee for their thoughts.

Louie G. asked how many traps he is looking to store. Chris said he is not certain, but because he's a commercial lobsterman he expects it to be a large amount. It was also asked if this storage for off season or in season or both? Chris seems to think he is looking for year-round storage. The committee is concerned as to where you draw the line for renting out town land for storage use, they fear it could become a problem. Matt Byrne thought it was not appropriate to rent out town property for private business use. Dan D. agreed stating this may open pandoras box. Bill N. said he seems to think the town would not be open to this idea. Bob M. said he thought something like this could bring down the value of the town. The committee agreed Mr. Rowell is a good guy but it is more the principal of the idea. Louie G. felt that there is not currently a piece of land already designed for such usage and creating a spot could create a problem especially for neighbors; the committee agreed.

Motion: Made by Matt Byrne, seconded by Bill Nicholson stating that the River Committee feels it is not appropriate for the town to engage in leasing land for commercial enterprise. All in favor: 7:0

Aileen also mentioned that Partners Health Care is interested in storing canoes/kayaks in an area in the town. Chris Sanborn suggested a representative from Partners Health Care attend an upcoming River Committee meeting to present the details of their request.

Old Business:

Chris S. gave the committee an update on the Crane River bank stabilization project. He said the project is moving forward. The site visit with DEP & Coastal Zone Management a few weeks ago. Chris feels that it will be a tough sell to get a solid revetment approved. Chris said coir rolls came up as an option, but he made it clear that the town did not want to pursue this option. It has been done before and has not worked, the town has already proved this solution does not work. Bill F. asked why they seem to be leaning toward this solution if historically it was no successful. Chris S. says DEP & Coastal Zone Management like to see slow erosion they consider it to be a good thing. To get them to consider a solid revetment solution the town needs to prove it is more than slow natural erosion. Chris S. said at the end of the site visit there was no consensus as to what direction they would go in. Chris said the town still pushing forward with this plan and is hoping for a solid revetment solution.

Chris also updated the committee on the project at 15 Mead Street- the Pier. Since last the last River Committee meeting, he met with Mr. & Mrs. Bartlett and Mr. Manuel from Wetlands Management. Chris distributed copies of the previous plan and the scaled back plan for this project to the committee members. Chris said our intention in not to prohibit them from having a pier, but rather to modify the pier. Bill N. asked Chris if the Bartlett's planned to bring in their 39' boat to the pier. Chris said he does not have an answer to that. Chris noted the average size boat in Danvers is 26.5' and in the future this should be the standard for dock/pier size in town. In Danvers we should not be building docks/piers to accommodate an individual's boat size. Aileen L. was concerned about if he changed his mind on boat size or plans and how that would affect things...Chris said if

Mr. Bartlett had any changes, he would have to apply to amend his Chapter 91 License, he could not just change his plans without amending this. Chris feels the Bartlett's new plan is less of a hazard to navigation in the river. The only issue that still exists is that Mr. Clement will need to move his mooring float for this plan. Louie G. asked if there would be a requirement for him to light the pier in any way (with lights or reflectors) so that boaters don't hit it at night. Chris said as plan currently stands no, but the Conservation Commission or DEP may require that. Louie said the area is dense so it would be a good idea. Dan D. asked for clarity re: the plan/map that was distributed particularly about the dash line on map by Porter River, he wanted to know what this represented. Chris thought they were MHW (mean high water) lines. Dan wondered if the dock should be located back a little and Chris said if so, that would affect the height of the landing float so they would not be able to do that. The committee still has some concern regarding the length of the pier and how far it will extend into the river. Aileen asked if we will be limiting the number of boats he will be allowed on the pier. Chris said not at this time but will address the matter as needed. Louie asked what the next step was for this project. Chris said the next step is going to back to the Conservation Commission.

Louie G. informed the group that the subcommittee that was formed to work on drafting a letter to be sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Board & the Conservation Commission, in regard to project applicants attending River Committee Meetings, will be meeting shortly and will bring the draft letter to the upcoming River Committee meeting for review.

Motion: Motion made by Bill Nicholson, seconded by Louie George, to adjourn the meeting of July 18, 2019. All in favor: 7:0

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