

Danvers River Committee
Thursday August 15, 2019
Meeting Minutes

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday August 15, 2019 Town Manager's Conference Room, Danvers Town Hall, at 6:00pm.

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

Member(s) absent: Bob Moore

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 July 18, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Made by Bill Nicholson, seconded by Matt Byrne to accept the minutes of the July 18, 2019; All in favor 7:0.

New Business:

There was a public request for kayak storage. Victoria Piper attended the River committee meeting, she has recently moved back to Danvers from Texas and grew up on the River, she would like to learn about the recreation opportunities that are available for the river. She would love to see a spot for storage of kayaks. She thought perhaps the public could rent space to store kayaks, this would be an affordable way for the general public to access the river. She wasn't sure of logistics and liabilities etc...but would like the town to explore options; perhaps offer a rental company like Beverly's West Beach. Ultimately, she would like for people to easily access the river.

Aileen said the committee has talked about possibly utilizing the Sandy Beach property for such a use. Louie G. asked Ms. Piper if she was looking for something similar to the

racks and storage, they have at Lynch Park in Beverly. She said yes, a rack system to store kayaks on that would be available for rental. Chris S. said he will do some research on it and learn more, then it will come down to logistics. Dan D. asked a friend how much it costs to store at Lynch Park and he was told it was free to Beverly residents, they just needed to supply your own lock & chain. She said in the case of Danvers her expectation would be that people would pay for this service. Chris S. asked her if kayakers prefer to launch into the water on beach/land or via a dock. Ms. Piper didn't seem to think there was a preference.

Chris reminded the committee that there is a capital improvement plan for Sandy Beach and kayak storage is included in that. Matt Byrne also suggested that this could be done for short money and perhaps as an Eagle Scout project. Sandy Beach may or may not be the best location as at night not well lit etc....but perhaps it could be dock based at somewhere like Popes Landing and may potentially be funded with Public Access grant money. Perhaps add a dock/float or two for Kayak and fishing to improve access for salt water fishing. The committee agreed for Chris S. to research this matter and investigate viable kayak storage possibilities.

Robyn & Rich Rowell attended the meeting, they were in attendance to discuss lobster trap storage. Rich presented his plan/thoughts for lobster trap storage in town. He stated he is a resident of Water St. and a commercial fisherman for 40 years, he lives and works in this town. The property behind Supino's Restaurant is where he had stored his equipment. He has 1000 traps with approximately 800 traps in the water in season. He begins to pull the traps out after Thanksgiving as he no longer fishes in winter months. He said there is approximately 10-12 commercial fisherman who did work out of Danvers but no longer do as the town does not offer any services for commercial fisherman, they have moved their businesses to other communities because of this. Mr. Rowell has investigated and learned that other towns (Marblehead, Nahant...) offer commercial fisherman space to store their equipment with parameters set for time frames etc....He would like to see some empty lots in the town of Danvers utilized for such use for commercial fisherman. Mr. Rowell has also presented his case to the Board of Selectmen. The size area he would need would only be about the size of four side by side semi-tractor trailer trucks (24 x 80). He can stack the traps very high. He said he is not looking for something for nothing and is willing to work out a rental agreement. He is currently working out of Liberty Marina. Mr. Rowell was asked if they have space there? He stated he asked, they do not and she (the owner/operator) is not comfortable allowing this use and potentially disrupting neighbors. He said his equipment is clean and pristine. It would not smell or attract pests. Mr. Rowell reminded the committee that this is being done in other towns for fisherman. He was happy to address any questions or concerns.

Bill Nicholson asked Mr. Rowell if anyone has gotten back to him since his presentation to the Selectmen. Mr. Rowell said the Town Manager's secretary called him to inquire on behalf of the Town Manager questioning how many more fisherman would want to store equipment in addition to him. Mr. Rowell stated those other fishermen as far as he is aware have their equipment stored in other areas and as far as he knows they do not plan to come back to Danvers.

Louie G. asked about other towns, do they limit to fisherman storage only or is it open to other trades such as contractors etc....

Aileen L. said that if this were to be allowed the town could set firm limitations.

Chris Sanborn thanked Rich for coming. Chris said following the recent Selectmen's Meeting the Town Manager asked Chris to investigate this matter with other towns currently offering storage to commercial fisherman. Chris said Salem does not allow this service and Marblehead did start to offer this service last year for a rental fee and it has worked out well for the most part. They did have some issue with pests and now have requirements to follow that were implemented by the Board of Health. Chris said Danvers is looking into what space the town could possibly use for this purpose. Some of the available spaces in town cannot accommodate this use as there are deed restrictions, other areas are state owned and such a usage is not allowed on state property. The town is looking at the town transfer station/landfill as an option. This may be able to work; but would be restricted to a certain area which is where the brush dump is, so it would need to be accessible only when the brush dump not in use. Also, DPW said it needs to check with the EPA as some of the land is capped and they are not sure would be allowed usage on such land.

Chris told Mr. Rowell that Marblehead said if needed to that he could store his equipment Marblehead.

Dan DeLorenzo asked how many traps he could move/transport at one time. Mr. Rowell said he could move approximately 40 traps at a time. The shorter distance they need to be moved the better.

The committee mentioned that H & H propeller in Salem may be an option for his storage purposes as well.

At this point Mr. Rowell stated he hasn't investigated other options as wanted to explore the options in Danvers first.

Matt B. mentioned on a lot on Pulaski St. across from Gibney Gardens that may be as an option for Mr. Rowell to investigate. He also mentioned a lot off East Coast Road, behind the plaza. He wasn't sure who owns it but it doesn't seem utilized and is decent size. He may want to investigate that area as a viable option as well. Matt also mentioned a vacant lot up at the old Hollywood Hits area. Currently a movie crew is using it for equipment storage but after the movie is done filming it will be vacant again.

Matt B. felt that of all town owned areas the landfill is probably the best location for this use and easier for all as far as managing neighbor concerns etc..... Matt stated he could not support his storage request in such an area as Popes Landing etc....

Chris S. told Mr. Rowell that he is looking into his inquiry and stated he will get back to him once he has firm answers.

Old Business:

The Crane River Bank stabilization project is still moving along, no new updates.

Regarding the 15 Mead Street project, Chris does not have any updates but did pass along the River Committee's recommendations regarding this project to the Conservation Commission.

Chris told the committee that some of the new lighting has been installed in the parking lot at Popes Landing.

Matt B. asked about the status of Jane Fullers presentation to the selectmen regarding her concerns with the footbridge at the Danversport Yacht Club.

Louie George presented the sub-committee's letters that were drafted in response to their June meeting when sub-committee was established where Matt B., Bill F. and Louie G. offered to draft a letter to be distributed to various town boards requesting that applicants appearing before them with projects affecting the waterways be referred to the River Committee to present their plans. Louie G. distributed the draft letter to the committee for review. Louie said he will send the letter to Chris S. to put on letterhead and distribute to the appropriate committees.

The River Committee agreed the letter was well written and look forward to it being distributed to various town boards and committees.

Motion: Motion made by Bill Nicholson, seconded by Dan DeLorenzo, to approve the distribution of the letter, (requesting applicants of all projects affecting the waterways be referred to the River Committee for information purposes) to the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board and the Zoning Board. All in favor: 6:0

Motion: Motion made by Bill Nicholson, seconded by Matt B., to adjourn the meeting of August 15, 2019. All in favor: 6:0

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