

Danvers River Committee
Thursday, November 21, 2019
Meeting Minutes

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday November 21, 2019 in the Town Manager's Conference Room, Danvers Town Hall, at 6:00pm.

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

Member(s) absent: Aileen L'Abbe

Staff Present: Christopher Sanborn, Harbormaster
Carolann Powers, Secretary

Media Present: None

Other:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Secretary's Report:

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the September 19, 2019 meeting. (Note: there was no October meeting.)

Motion: Made by Bill Nicholson, seconded by Matt Byrne to accept the minutes of the September 19, 2019 meeting; All in favor 7:0.

The committee agreed to continue to meet the 3rd Thursday of each month in 2020.

Motion: Made by Bill Fouhey and seconded by Bill Nicholson confirming that the River Committee will plan to meet on the third Thursday of each month in 2020, agreeing that the committee will not meet in the months of February and March. All in favor 7:0.

New Business:

Santa by Sea will not be held this year, 2019. The necessary donations were not received this year as they were in the past. The decision was made to cancel the event. Aileen L'Abbe stated she aggressively pursued donations but the approximate \$7k cost to run the event became unmanageable. The committee was hopeful the event may take place again in future. Bill Fouhey asked if the Recreation Department or Town could fund or partially fund the event moving forward, perhaps but not for 2019 as it was not budgeted for, but future years. Gardner Trask mentioned that in addition to a lack of donated funds there is not often enough volunteers to run and manage the event. He noted that other event organizations like Family Festival are in a similar situation. They are also in need of volunteers for their board and if that does not happen summer 2020 may be their last year. He noted people on social media are unhappy with the cancellation of such events, but the hope is with the event's cancellations the public will step up and volunteer for events like this in the future. It was said that the Recreation Department can absorb only so many events each year as there is a cost associated with them.

Chris Sanborn stated that Aaron Henry had asked Chris to discuss with the committee a request that he had received from a resident of on Choate Ave; they were requesting that the town provide some sort of seating area at that location, perhaps benches. Aaron was looking for feedback & ideas from the River Committee for possible ideas for this location. Matt Byrne liked this idea as there are similar sites in other areas with river access in town.

Chris said that the FY'21 Budget will be level funded in regard to expenses and the department is not asking for any increases. The department is however asking for an additional appropriation to replace the 1987 patrol boat.

Bill Nicholson asked Chris if he had any idea of the dollar amount the Harbor will be turning back to the Town. Chris S. said the Waterway Fees go into the Dredging Fund, and they will likely ask for additional funding for dredging. Bill N. asked if they were any reports or concerns from the Condo association at McDewell Ave. regarding the parking lot filling with water during high tide. Chris asked which condo development he was referring to and Bill said the one located closest to John George Park. Chris reminded the committee that the Condo Association for that development will be pursuing a rip rap wall in that area on their own and not in conjunction with the town project. Matt B. asked if the previous dredging project was paid off yet, and what the debt service was. Chris said it was not paid off yet, but it is projected to be paid off by 2022, paying approximately \$60K a year.

Old Business:

Chris noted that the town is working diligently with a Consultant Engineering Firm regarding the Crane River Marina Bank Stabilization project. The town is pushing to move away from a soft solution. The town is moving forward in the process regarding this project. Bill Fouhey asked about the availability of funds in the budget for this

project. Chris said they have not addressed the warrant articles related to this project, but they will. The River Committee was invited to attend a public engagement meeting with Coastal Resiliency on December 5, 2019 from 8:30-4:30. This could open a lot of grant possibilities for the town of Danvers. This public forum is one step that will help the town in gaining grants. The town is obligated to offer a public forum in this grant process. The engineering firm Weston & Sampson was hired to present this seminar as they are also the engineering firm hired to assist with this grant application. Chris S. said the bank stabilization project is a project that will need grant assistance. Once the town has a firm design/engineer plan we will be in a better place to apply for and pursue possible grants.

Chris noted that the 19ft Harbormaster boat is out of water and marina is winterized. After Thanksgiving they will pull out other boat and finalize winterizing.

Chris updated the committee on the lobster trap storage request that had been proposed to the town several months ago by Richard Rowell. The town made some accommodations for him. They set aside an area at Lebel's Grove for this purpose. Mr. Rowell was pleased and appreciated it but chose not to use the space at Lebel's Grove. Bill Nicholson believes he opted to use another location at Liberty Marina.

Bill N. asked about Ms. Fuller, he thought she was planning on attending this evening's meeting regarding her concerns with a bridge project at the Danversport Yacht Club. Chris said no, she would not be attending and she was currently pursuing her concerns through other venues.

Bill N. & Bill F. recently saw a member of the Salem Coastal Sound Watch and said they'd like to have her attend an upcoming River Committee meeting and or arrange for a speaker at an upcoming meeting.

Louie G. & Bill F. asked about the status of a letter that was to be sent to all town boards requesting they inform the River Committee of any actions pertaining to the river and Danvers waterfront and in addition steer those to River Committee as well for informational purposes. Chris apologized that he had not yet sent the letters but stated he will. He will speak with Aaron H. Director of Land Use and Community Services prior to doing so but will be sure it gets done.

Matt B. ask is all boats were out of river? Chris said yes within the last two weeks. Matt B. asked if the porta potty had been removed at John George/Crane River Marina. Chris said yes, it had been removed. Matt asked about the status of buoy removal. Chris S. said yes, all buoys had been removed.

Bill N. asked if there had been anymore talk about naming the Water Street Bridge. Chris said yes, the sign is now up, naming it the Danversport Bridge.

Matt B. asked if the camera link (from the Homeland Security network of cameras) had worked out with surrounding communities such as Salem & Marblehead. Chris said no,

they are installed but that the link was not yet functional. He stated those communities currently do not want to participate so it hasn't happened yet.

Matt B. asked about the storage of Harbormaster patrol boats. Chris said they will be heat shrink wrapped and stored in the back lot at Popes Landing.

Chris S. is looking into program with the government for surplus equipment; he thought this may be a good way to acquire a new boat for the department, i.e. an old Coast Guard boat. The town would need to pay administrative fees, approximately \$40k vs. a new boat at a cost of approximately \$225K. He said they are exploring all options.

Motion: Motion made by Matt B, seconded by Louie G, to adjourn the meeting of November 21, 2019. All in favor: 7:0

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