

**Danvers River Committee**  
**Thursday May 20, 2021**  
**Meeting Minutes**

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday May 20, 2021 Via Microsoft Teams, at 6:00pm.

**Member(s) present:** Dan DeLorenzo, Chair  
Matthew Byrne  
Bill Fouhey  
Louie George  
Tom Perry  
Mike McCarthy

**Member(s) absent:** Robert Hemeon  
Bill Nicholson, Vice Chair  
Joan George  
Bob Moore  
Joseph Marabito  
Gardner Trask, Selectman Liaison

**Staff Present:** Christopher Sanborn, Director of Natural Resources  
Carolann Powers, Secretary

**Media Present:** None

Dan DeLorenzo called meeting called to order at 6:01pm.

**Secretary's Report:**

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the April 22, 2021 meeting.

**Motion:** Made by Bill Fouhey, seconded by Matt Byrne to accept the minutes of the April 22, 2021; All in favor: 5:0.

**New Business:**

Dan DeLorenzo welcomed new member, Mike McCarthy to the River Committee. He noted that Mike has been involved with the Danvers River his entire life and the committee was happy to have Mike on board.

Dan reminded the committee that they had decided, moving forward each year, to vote for Chair and Vice Chair of the committee after the annual Town Meeting (as annual

appointments to the committee are made at that meeting May). The committee then nominated Dan DeLorenzo as Chairperson of the River Committee. A roll call vote was taken approving the nomination. It was discussed that they also needed to nominate a Vice Chair. Matt Byrne said he would like to nominate Bill Nicholson but would feel better waiting to confirm this nomination with Bill at an upcoming meeting before taking a roll call vote. Dan DeLorenzo agreed and suggested waiting to the next meeting for a roll call vote for Vice Chair. Bill Fouhey said he too supports the nomination of Bill Nicholson, as did Louis George, and agreed to put it on the next meeting agenda to confirm.

Chris informed the group that emergency repairs were made to the MassBay Bridge on 18<sup>th</sup>. They had identified some cracks in the concrete in the center turn table that needed repair. Danvers mariners were notified via an online communication via Online Mooring. The repairs were completed that day, and everything appears to be back up and running as normal. Louis George asked if there was a connection with these repairs to those discussed at our last meeting. Chris S. said no that proposal was for the Kernwood Bridge, so perhaps with inspections on other bridges in the area they found this problem.

### **Old Business:**

Chris updated the group on the status of the Waterfront Access/DMF Grant. He reminded the committee that the town has contracted with Hancock Associates for this project. To date, they have found some concerns with the deeds for these access ways. Some of these roadways to the water have not yet been accepted by the town, so there is some concern about surveying the areas and posting them as public access until we can get clarification from Town Counsel. The Town may consider using the grant money to formally accept those roadways to include access to the water. The deadline to use the grant is June 30<sup>th</sup> and it was noted we are getting close to that date. Louie George asked is there would be specific language in the documentation that these ways/roads would be waterfront access points. Chris was not sure and would investigate this with Steve King, Town Engineer for clarification. Louie G. wants it to be abundantly clear that there is waterfront access via these access points, so it is clear to the public. Dan DeLorenzo noted that at the end of Eden Glen Ave., due to high traffic using this area to access the river during covid, the riverbank is eroding and needs some repair, perhaps steps or something similar could be installed. Dan noted it was eroded from foot traffic and wondering, if possible, for funds from the grant to be applied to this to repair this area. Chris said there would be a lengthy permitting process for such repairs but there could be minor repairs to the area that may not require permitting that could possibly be considered. Dan noted the erosion is up more toward the street. Chris said he can have Georgia Pendergast (Staff Planner) liason to the Conservation Commission, go out and view the area and see what suggestions she may have.

Chris updated the committee on the Budget/Warrant articles post Annual Town Meeting. He said the only update he had was to inform them that all articles were approved, including the maintenance dredging appropriation of \$20k earmarked for dredging. He

noted the Revolving Account balance is \$100K+. Bill F. asked about the warrant article for Frost Fish Brook and asked if riprap would be installed to stabilize that bank, what type of permitting process would they be required to do. He was curious how they able to do this when the process has been so difficult at the Crane River Marina. Bill noted that Matt B. that at the last meeting Matt B. asked if there is were any options for us to pursue that may help with the permitting process, can we use other agencies such as the Army Corp etc....he said it boggles his mind that they are not giving us other options. Chris said Frost Fish Brook is brackish water and Coastal Zone Management may not be involved with that project because of that. He noted he wasn't sure, but it may be mitigation for upland flooding which is a different process. He said he didn't have a good answer as for what other options may be.

Chris updated the members on the status of the Crane Riverbank Stabilization project. He noted that he did not have anything new to report at this time.

Chris update the members on the ongoing topic of speeding complaints on the river. He told the group that he doesn't have any new updates but plans to send out an email blast and social media blast with a speeding reminder and the rules and regulations. Dan D. said he inquired with local marinas to see if they still use that area for testing boats, they were adamant that they need to use that area otherwise they would need to go out past Lynch Park in Beverly which would add an hour and a half to their testing process. Dan asked if he could communicate some rules marina owners acknowledging what is acceptable. Chris S. it is a good idea but would need to think about it and see what is legally acceptable and what the policy would be for all mechanics taking boats out to test. Louie G. asked if there is a bylaw that created the 5mph zone originally. Chris said yes, it is a town bylaw. He has not been able to find any official exception to the bylaw and is under the assumption that there is no exception to be made unless they can find documentation of such. Chris said there are legal arguments on both sides of this process. Mike McCarthy asked if this is about the impact to the shoreline/erosion or the speed of the boats. He referred to the science of boats wakes and noted it may not be related to the speed, we may need to think a little differently regarding this issue. A boat's wake is far smaller at a higher speed than a slower speed due to weight and water displacement. It may suggest that speed is not the culprit. Louis G. said indeed if the science doesn't support this or just the speed alone is not the issue, then it may be worth looking at the bylaw and consider a revision to it. Dan suggested that perhaps we find the original bylaw and view how it is written. Chris said he has found the bylaw but is unable to find the exception to the bylaw. He will continue looking and update the committee at the next meeting.

Chris was happy to report an update regarding the new M25 Patrol Boat. It is in service and in the water, and they are currently in the process breaking in the mercury outboard motors at varying speeds. They are still working out logistics of transferring the fire pump from the old boat to new boat. Chris is confident it will be up and running in a few weeks. Chris informed the committee that there was a small generator fire on a boat a few weeks ago at Danversport Yacht Club that was extinguished with out assistance needed from the fire pump.

Chris told the committee that the high bid was \$26,850 old the old 25' Patrol Boat. The Town Manager said this money will go into free cash but at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting will be allocated back into the Revolving Waterways Fund to supplement the expense for new boat. Louie G. asked if the bidder was a local person. Chris S. said yes that was his understanding he is a Beverly resident, so we may still see the boat locally. Dan asked if the new boat has a trailer, Chris said yes. The committee commended Chris on the acquisition of the new boat and noted how great it looks. Bill F. asked if the Department has an infrared light to locate people in fog and other similar scenarios. He said no at this time, unable to fund it (\$10k), but perhaps down the road.

Dan D. asked if the Pump Out Boat will be in service this season. Chris S. said yes, but with only 2 Pump Out Boat operators. He had hoped for more but due to this limitation we won't be able to offer online registrations as in past. Boaters will instead need to flag down boat or hail the boat on vhf channel 09, as needed. He noted they advertised multiple positions, increased the hourly rate, and still had no interest.

Mike McCarthy asked Chris is he could inform the Beverly Harbor Master that at the end of Foster's Point there appears to be a giant mound of sticks/wood 6'-8' high , 10' around, at high tide it flows down river and needs to be removed. Chris said he will reach out to Beverly Harbormaster concerning this.

**Motion:** Motion made by Bill Fouhey, seconded by Mike McCarthy, to adjourn the meeting of May 20 , 2021. All in favor: 5:0

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