

**Danvers River Committee**  
**Thursday August 19, 2021**  
**Meeting Minutes**

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday August 19, 2021, at the Endicott Park Visitors Center (Conference Room) at 6:00pm.

**Member(s) present:** Dan DeLorenzo, Chair  
Bill Nicholson, Vice Chair  
Robert Hemeon  
Matthew Byrne  
Bill Fouhey  
Louie George  
Tom Perry  
Mike McCarthy  
Gardner Trask, Selectman Liaison

**Member(s) absent:** Matt Duggan, Selectman Liaison  
Bob Moore

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

**Media Present:** None

Dan DeLorenzo called meeting called to order at 6:06 pm.

**Secretary's Report:**

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the July 15, 2021 meeting.

**Motion:** Made by Matt Byrne, seconded by Bill Nicholson to accept the minutes of the July 15, 2021; All in favor 8:0.

**New Business:**

Chris gave the committee a Waterfront update. He stated it had been relatively quiet month. He noted the Danvers Harbormasters Office recently assisted the Salem Harbormaster managing a boat trailer and vehicle that went off a boat ramp into the water in Salem.

Chris informed the group that to date 594 Waterway Permits have been issued, 45 Tender Permits, 29 Seasonal Ramp Permits, 98 Mooring Permits and 63 Dockage Permits at the Crane River Marina were issued.

Matt Byrne asked how those without tenders get to a boat on a mooring. Chris stated that many who have boats on moorings have them in front of their own home/property, eliminating need for a tender permit.

Chris noted the overall number of permits issued this season is far beyond all permits issued previous years. Boating is back this year and to date he is pleased to report there have been no major incidents.

Chris said DPW did a good job maintaining the mowing of the grassy riverbank area at the Crane River Marina. Chris said it was done in accordance with the Conservation Commission regulations. Chris noted they have added two new pads for memorial benches at the Crane River Marina. Mowing this area will allow views from these benches.

Chris informed the committee that the town has a new vendor for memorial benches, which is a good thing as they were not entirely pleased with previous vendor; however, despite this the lead times on delivery are lengthy due to covid.

Chris noted the Annual Report for the River Committee had been completed for the current year to date and remainder of year. Copies will be distributed to the committee members.

### **Old Business:**

Power Plant update: Gardner Trask recently attended a Public Meeting regarding the MMWC Power Plant in Peabody. The meeting was a public meeting for selectmen and other public boards, commissions, and town departments to inform them about the proposed project and allow them to ask questions. Public officials were also in attendance. Gardner noted the Town of Danvers will not benefit from this project and will not use this plant but due to its proximity to Danvers the town wants to be involved. Gardner said the power plant is a high pressure, gas powered power plant for electricity. When gas is too costly, they will fire the plant with oil. He many questions arose at the meeting as to why they are not using battery power or something more environmentally sound. They said battery longevity is only 4 hours, so it is not ideal. He said the power plant will produce a carbon footprint. He said the reality is there are currently two power plants there at that location. One 8-megawatt plant and one 10-megawatt plant, which are not clean or efficient. The new proposed power plant will be 20-megawatt plant and will put out less emission carbon footprint and will be less obtrusive than the current plants. Gardner said this will be a peak plant, only used during peak use times when local plants are overtaxed, i.e., during excessive heat or cold. Gardner said they expect it to be use for approximately 280 hours although it is permitted for 1k hours. Gardner said he was initially upset that the Select board, other town committee's and commissions and town official weren't invited to the planning phases of this proposed project as there was concern about how the project will affect the river as a majority of this project is on the riverbank. In addition, Gardner noted that this project will bring more traffic (construction, deliveries etc.....) to our area as well as having a potential impact on local fire departments (Danvers/Peabody). Gardner said that Danvers and Peabody Fire Departments will receive specific training in case of emergency at the power plant. He also noted they know where all chemicals etc. will be located.

Gardner said they will likely have to use some form of fossil fuel to power the plant. Gardner feels this new plant is best solution to reduce the carbon footprint of the current plant. The selectmen did not take any action/motions in regard to this project they did not feel it was their place, they felt their place was to be educated regarding the plants impact on the town of Danvers. Gardner felt it was a very informative meeting and was satisfied with the information received, he does not feel the new proposed plant will cause any more risk than what exists with the current plant. Gardner will not be pursuing any further action in re: the proposed new plant. He noted it will likely be a 10-year timeline from proposal to completion of this project.

Dan thanked Gardner for his time and the detailed information regarding the proposed power plant project. Gardner noted that the meeting he attended was recorded and is available to view on you tube if anyone wanted further details.

Dan D. asked Gardner if the new power plant would make noise and if so at what level. He said they were told they performed noise testing and yes it makes noise but at a lesser level than other existing plants.

Public access signage had been posted at Bradstreet Ave. and Mead St. Chris noted they have been posted with antitheft hardware. Chris said he has a meeting schedule with Aaron Henry, Director of Land Use and Community Services and Georgia Pendergast, planner as to where we go from her in re: to other areas of public access that may need to be addressed at a town counsel level. Chris said he thinks it is appropriate at this time, to at least, afford the abutters the opportunity to have some input as to where the town goes from here in regard to the access ways. He noted the project is not done and the town will be working through it over the next several months and are making progress.

Mike McCarthy asked about access points in those areas that have sea walls. He noted liability concerns if person falls off the wall, whose liability is it. Chris said is clearly marked as a public access way as opposed to a town easement, if clearly defined in the deed it would fall under same category as any other town property and would be only minimal responsibility/liability to the town.

Matt B. asked about a boat trip/tour of the river for the committee members. Chris offered two dates to the committee, dividing the group up and taking them on two separate trips would ensure comfort, safety, and space for all passengers (max 5). They scheduled the tours for Tuesday 8/31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm and Wednesday 9/8<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm.

**Motion:** Motion made by Bill Fouhey, seconded by Louie George, to adjourn the meeting of August 19, 2021. All in favor: 8:0

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