

Danvers River Committee
Thursday May 19, 2022
Meeting Minutes

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday May 19, 2022 at the Endicott Park Visitors Center (Carriage Room) at 6:00pm.

Member(s) present: Dan DeLorenzo, Chair
Matthew Byrne
Bill Fouhey
Robert Hemeon
Michael McCarthy
Tom Perry
Andrea Daley
William Ciesinski
Gardner Trask, Selectman Liaison

Member(s) absent: Bob Moore
Louie George

Staff Present: Christopher Sanborn, Director of Natural Resources

Media Present: None

Other:

called meeting called to order at 6:05pm.

Secretary's Report:

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2022 meeting.

Motion: Made by Matthew Byrne, seconded by Tom Perry to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2022 meeting; All in favor: 8:0.

New Business:

Chris Sanborn and Dan DeLorenzo welcomed new committee members Andrea Daley and William Ciesinski.

There was brief discussion regarding election of a new Committee Chair. It was decided at a previous meeting that a Chair would be elected annually following the May Town Meeting. The group agreed to postpone this election to the June meeting.

Chris Sanborn provided the committee with a brief waterfront update. There has been a good return rate with permits. The town marina is full, and they are actively filling mooring space from a waiting list of over 30(?) people.

Chris Sanborn reported that the fire pump on Marine 25 is undergoing repairs. He hopes to have these repairs completed and the boat in the water by this coming weekend. He noted that some of these repairs are extensive due to saltwater corrosion.

The Harbormaster's Office received a request from Houghton Marine of Salem(?) to provide mooring service work in Danvers. Chris Sanborn approved said request. There are now two providers permitted to work in town, including Danvers Mooring Service.

Robert Hemeon asked about whether people have a choice which mooring service provider to use. Chris Sanborn replied, yes. Bob asked, can the providers be competitive with price? Chris Sanborn said, yes.

Matt Byrne asked if someone is offered a mooring can they opt not to accept and remain on the wait list. Chris Sanborn said yes, they can remain on the wait list only once after turning down a mooring. After the second refusal, they are removed from the list and must re-apply.

Bill Ciesinski asked if mooring waiting list applicants can be added to a list to move to a different spot once another one opens. Chris Sanborn replied yes, but they must first accept the mooring location offered and as other space opens, they can request to be moved.

Tom Perry asked about the new signage at Pope's Landing by Liberty Street. Chris Sanborn said that the town is doing a dedication for the bridge in recognition of the Soucy family of Danvers and their war time commitments.

Andrea Daley asked about paddle board & kayak rental at Sandy Beach. Chris Sanborn said that the Recreation Division is actively researching this. They've recently met with a vendor that provides storage for kayak rentals. The vendor did mention that given the tidal restrictions at Sandy Beach it may not be the ideal locations, and everyone agreed that perhaps Pope's Landing may be the better location for this.

Old Business

Chris Sanborn spoke on the topic of Harbormaster Training. Chris said that Assistant Harbormaster Josh Barrett is completing his Bridge Academy training and was recently sworn as a Special Police Officer in addition to his Assistant Harbormaster appointment.

Chris Sanborn said that a recent determination from the POST Commission allows some flexibility to maintain Assistant Harbormasters without Special Police powers while others with those SPO powers would be subject to POST certification. Chris explained some of the differences in the two appointments.

William Ciesinski asked how many Assistant Harbormasters Danvers has. Chris Sanborn replied 8 including the Deputy Harbormaster.

Matt Byrne asked about a pay difference in the two positions. Chris Sanborn explained that yes, there will be a difference pay and that both positions will now be on a pay scale with step increases annually.

Michael McCarthy mentioned that our Assistant Harbormasters are currently being paid less than lifeguards in the City of Boston. Chris agreed that the pay is not where it should be but that it's a step in the right direction.

Chris Sanborn provided a budget update. He said that Town Meeting recently approved the FY23 budget and warrant articles including the transfer of funds for the patrol boat and dredging maintenance.

Dan DeLorenzo asked about the dredging maintenance warrant article. Chris Sanborn said that there was \$20k approved.

William Ciesinski asked about dredging fund. Chris Sanborn explained the Waterways Revolving Fund being dedicated to dredging.

Andrea Daley asked about the waterfront access sites grant. Chris Sanborn said the grant commitment was completed and the River Committee was provided with an update of the findings.

There was a brief discussion on dredging and Crane River shoreline stabilization, but Chris Sanborn suggested adding the topic as a future agenda item that he could provide more specific details on.

Chris Sanborn provided an update on the docks and pier construction in Danvers. He mentioned that he and Georgia Pendergast are working with some professionals to determine whether its appropriate to incorporate guidelines into a new waterfront master plan. Chris will update the committee following an upcoming meeting with this firm.

William Ciesinski asked if this only applied to residential piers. Chris Sanborn said that if we end up doing a master plan for the waterfront, he believes it should include commercial infrastructure too.

Matthew Byrne asked about the status of the proposed residential pier off Choate Ave. Chris Sanborn said that the last update he was provided is that SESD provide a legal request that the applicant provide and overlay of their proposed project relative to their easements.

Chris provided the committee with a survey of private marinas in dockage and their dockage rates relative to what the town is charging per foot for dockage at the Town Marina. Chris Sanborn noted that the committee and town should take into consideration the amenities that are being offered at the other marinas. Chris' feeling is that we aren't charging enough but also does not want to outprice ourselves that we can't fill open slips.

Gardner Trask asked about rates relative to what other towns are charging. Chris Sanborn said that for dockage rate it is hard to get comps because there are only a few municipal marinas

north of Boston. It will be easier to get comps on other fees, but he wanted to focus on dockage rates at this meeting.

There was brief discussion on boat excise tax. Chris Sanborn explained the assessment and collection process.

Motion: Motion made by Robert Hemeon, seconded by Andrea Daley, to adjourn the meeting of May 19, 2022. All in favor: 8:0

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