

TOWN OF FALMOUTH WATERWAYS COMMITTEE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, February 1, 2023, 7:00 P.M. Zoom Meeting
Harbor Masters Office Conference Room
180 Scranton Ave., Falmouth, MA 02540

Members present: Jeff Thomas (Chair), Mike Kinney (V-Chair), Chuck Eastman, Kevin King,
Joe Voci, Gregg Fraser (Harbormaster) and Doug Brown (Select Board Member)

Members Absent: Chuck Martinsen, Dan Shearer

Public Attendees: Dave Thompson, Debbie Scott, JC, Lisa Mudrick, Michele MSA, Molly Kammerer MSA, Alison Ferrante, RFL, Edward Martin and Carol

Public Comments: J Thomas assures M Kammerer that her comments, regarding Megansett Harbor area were distributed to the committee members.

<https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14101/MEG-Update-M-Kammerer-2023-02-01>

<https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14102/MEG-Appeal>

Review and approve minutes of January 4, 2023 – J Voci – Asked D Brown for more information regarding the 18-acre tract of land. D Brown explains that the land is jointly owned by Falmouth, Sandwich and Mashpee and maybe suitable for dewatering. J Thomas – Adds action to work with G Fraser and D Brown. J Thomas – Adds that he will work with G Fraser and C Martinsen to approach Peter Johnson-Staub regarding a stabilization fund.

M Kinney approve as recorded C Eastman 2nd. Minutes unanimously approved as written.

Harbormaster Report:

- Bid opening for WF Boat ramp on 2/10/2023 at Town Hall. Six large construction companies have taken out plans: (Sunco, Shults, Northern Construction, Robert B Our, C. White Marine, NE Building & Bridge, MAT Marine, Beacon Marine, Burnham Marine)
- Pre-bid meeting was held on Friday, 3 companies showed up. Several questions were answered by our engineer.
- Bid documents are being finalized for the Wild Harbor floats, should be advertised by mid-month.
- Rec'd Chapter 91 and CZM final approvals for Comp Permit. ACOE's notified the town on Friday a section 408 application would be required this time around (never has been before) This is an adjacency review because the towns dredge footprint is within the federal project limits. Will be granted but have been told they are backed up and likely will cause delays.
- Falmouth Harbor post dredge survey was received; we are waiting for the invoice from the county now.
- Plymouth county long reach excavator leased again, will be here later this month for Truck River, Salt Pond, Fresh River, Little Pond
- Rec'd preliminary estimate for Eel River/Washburn's project \$175,000. If we apply for CZM funding the town match required will be \$43,750., funding in Capital?
- WB Evaluate dredging and disposal alternatives \$15,000 – Woods Hole Group
- RDNA study halfway report issued, Winter flounder (TOY Restrictions = Jan 15th to May 30th) DNA was found in Green Pond and Waquoit Bay with most active times February and March. A Fyke net was deployed in Waquoit Bay early January; 2 adult fish caught. We can apply for a waiver if necessary.
- https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14096/County_Dredge_Update_1-26-23

- Peter McConarty, the DPW Director, did hold a meeting discussing a possible larger dredge footprint for Fresh Pond by accessing through private property. The Town Council and the Conservation committee are both cautious of the fragile sea wall and potential damage to homeowner's property.

- Committee Continued Discussion –re-evaluate Dredging Priority List (last version Dec 2020)

J Thomas – Asks the committee to keep the need of priority over cost. G Fraser explains there are many factors to consider when rating; number of boats using the area, boat yards, economic impact, boat excise tax, where material goes, who is paying to move or remove a mooring field before dredging and need.

<https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14095/dredging-priority-list-2023DRAFT>

Committee agrees to create a criteria list from the existing list. Removing the ones that are required annually and re-assessing the ones that are left. Dave Thompson points out that environmental impact for water quality, property tax and shellfish impact should also be considered for the criteria list. J Voci – Suggests a subcommittee. J Thomas – agrees and stresses that they stay committed to the projects at hand as well as having the best interest of the town in mind. D Brown suggests keeping all items on the list and continue to evaluate them each year. D Brown did mention to the Select board about using the 18-acre lot for dewatering of Waquoit Bay.

- Megansett Harbor Status

G Fraser met with Jennifer Lincoln of the Conservation Committee and Leslie Fields of Woods Hole Group, about the dewatering of the approach only. The samples came back “ok” for beach nourishment, this will allow the beach to be used as long as the sand is moved to another approved beach disposal site. We are waiting for the Army Corps of Engineers approval of the 10-year comp permit, once received we agreed to file for an amendment. We expect the permit to be complete around May of 2023. D Brown – It seems we are always waiting for the Army Corps of Engineers approval. G Fraser explains that they are understaffed but Leslie offered to reach out to Congressman Keating's office for help.

https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14097/Existing_Conditions_Megansett_Entrance_Channel_1-2-2022

M Kammerer – Reviews the data sent to the committee.

<https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14101/MEG-Update-M-Kammerer-2023-02-01>

She points out the total amount of 41K cubic yards of material is to be dredged along with the town of Bourne's 10,142 cubic yards. Her committee has raised 117k in private donations. She intends to coordinate with the Town of Bourne and the engineers. G Fraser explains that this would be a stand alone permit, not part of the 10-year comprehensive permit and approval, once filed, can take at least a year.

- Waquoit Bay Embayment Project Status

G Fraser reached out to Woods Hole Group for potential disposal sites. The cost of moving forward would be approximately 12K. Committee agrees to move forward.

- Eel River West Project Status

Phase I, dredging the natural channel quote will move forward as soon as money is available. G Fraser- Phase II, permitting and engineering cost for cutting the tip of Washburn Island, will cost approximately 175K, according to CZM. This will open the channel, slow the water coming in with the intention of stopping the scouring of the properties north of the Yacht Club. 75% is state funding with a 25% match of town funding. G Fraser explains permitting will not be easy, it's a very extensive permitting process requiring every level of state and local approval.

Committee discusses whether to move forward. K King This channel may close on its own. L Mudrick (Kavanaugh) This is a public safety issue. The problem is the spit is getting bigger the channel is getting smaller and the water flowing through it is dangerous. M Kinney points out the historical maps show there was no entrance there, adds we may be fighting nature. Prioritizing these projects is important. L Mudrick thinks because of the depth, it's unlikely to connect. Committee agrees to take this into consideration when creating their priority list.

- Member Comments- None
- Next meeting date – March 1, 2023

Meeting Adjourned – 18:35

Respectfully submitted by Paula Cushman