

TOWN OF FALMOUTH WATERWAYS COMMITTEE MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, March 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 and Gregg Fraser (Harbormaster)

Members Absent: Chuck Martinsen, Dan Shearer

Public Attendees: Jack Roth and Jacqueline Dufresne (WBYC)

- **Public Comments** - None

- **Review and approve minutes of February 1, 2023**

Minutes unanimously approved as written.

- **Harbormaster Report:**

**Comprehensive Permit Update:** All local and state permits received. We are currently being held up at the federal level because a newly applied section 408 review is being required. (Never required in the past) This is because the town dredge footprint impacts the federal project footprint. Many towns are having issues with the ACOE's. See printout.

**Megansett Approach Update:** Nothing new to report.

**Waquoit Bay Update:** Based on past meetings I authorized WHG to proceed with Task 2 (Evaluate dredging and disposal alternatives for \$11,203)

**Eel River Project Update:** Pending committee considerations. I am trying to get an answer from CZM if we can apply for a grant pending town match approval in the Nov town meeting, Otherwise, without the match waiver we would have to wait until 2024 to file.

Low number of unpaid moorings this year, less than 80. Demand fee now applies.

Final slip payments were due by 3/1/23, couple stragglers.

Seasonal wages were increased by 15%, however, hours reduced to reflect the school schedules. We will be looking to hire several new employees this year.

K King – What is the progress on the install of the floats in GHW? G Fraser – We are waiting on the contractor's schedule. J Thomas- Should we investigate electric boat charging stations? Committee agrees to add that onto a future agenda.

- **Committee Continued Discussion –revaluate Dredging Priority List (last version Dec 2020)**

<https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14203/dredging-priority-list-depth-classification2>

J Thomas asks the committee to look at the 12 items to consider when evaluating a priority list. Rank each item, within each harbor between 1 and 5, 1 being the most important. He explains that each harbor should be separately ranked, once complete, the committee members should return their results to him. Once combined, the results will help them prioritize the different harbors.

### Depth Classification

Deep Draft 11 + ft	D
Med Draft 6- 11 ft	M
Shallow Draft 0-6 ft	S

### Criteria

Navigation  
Impact on boaters – Draft/Length  
Feasibility of getting permits  
Commercial/Ferries/Marinas  
# of Boaters (moorings, docks, slips, transits)  
Discharge access  
Cost \$\$\$ vs Benefits  
Access to Boat Ramps  
Already permitted  
Impact to Adjacent Towns  
Water quality/Aquaculture  
Community support

- **Megansett Harbor Update** – No new data to add.
- **Waquoit Bay Embayment and Inlet Dredging project status updates and schedule tracking-**

G Fraser contacted Woods Hole Group, asked them to proceed with the issue of material placement. Chris Dunn, a former WBYC and Falmouth resident, submitted the following statement.

<https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14202/Waquoit-Bay-Summary-Feb-2023>

G Fraser – Explains that CZM is very supportive of dredging, they put together a spread sheet showing all the cape towns that have permits pending and will relay their frustration to the state and federal regulators.

<https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14204/Cape-Cod-Dredging-Permit-Status---2-23-23>

- **Eel River West Project Status** – We have a “ballpark” figure from WHG. Once spring dredging is complete and we have a better idea of the funding in place, we can have Woods hole Group move forward with Phase 1, moving the channel more east of the existing sand bar.
- **Member Comments** – C Eastman – Should we become more active in involving the different groups that were involved in the completion of the Cotuit, MA project? G Fraser – Has been in touch with several parties that were involved. The permit process is long but once the permits are acquired the state will get involved with funding. Part of the grant process is getting letters from the Cape legislative delegation. The Town Manger did authorize R. Bates and Sons to move forward with the contract for the West Falmouth Boat Ramp project which is scheduled for the fall. This company repaired the Childs River ramp pitch for the State in the past. Results were all positive. Bid opening for the Wild Harbor floats, ramp and platform for the ramp is scheduled for Friday, March 3, 2023.
- **Next meeting date** – April 5, 2023

Meeting Adjourned – 19:55

Respectfully submitted by Paula Cushman