

Town of Falmouth Massachusetts  
Waterways Committee Minutes  
Wednesday October 4, 2023 - 7:00pm  
In person Meeting  
790 Main St. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Room 1  
Gus Canty Recreation Center

**Members present:** Joe Voci (Chairman), Mike Kinney, Wayne (Rocky) Geyer, Gregg Fraser (Harbormaster) and Paula Cushman (Recording Secretary)

**Members not present:** C. Martinsen, Kevin King (Vice Chairman), Chuck Eastman

**Guests:** Molly Kammerer, Michele and Stephen Scaife and Alison Ferrante.

**Public Comments (Non agenda items):** M Kammerer asks if the Harbormaster report could be read before all other business. J Voci agrees, after a review of last month's minutes.

**Review and approve the minutes of September 6, 2023**

MOTION by R Geyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> M Kinney, to approve minutes as printed.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

**Harbor Master updates:**

- New ramp 90% complete at West Falmouth. Should be open by the end of the week. Floats will be constructed in the spring by the Tech School and installed then. Same style as Harrington.
- Comp Permit: NOAA has now informed the ACOE's, they want section 7 ESA verifications for each location listed with protected species. This is not how it has been done in the past. The ACOE's estimates a 2-to-3-week delay.
- Great Pond Channel dredging: Can be done after the ACOE's issue the new permit and done by January 15<sup>th</sup>. We will have to pay to have the spuds and muffler removed from the dredge so it can get under the Great Pond Bridge. Will likely dredge the inlet at the same time and see if it lasts through the winter?? Spoils are going to Menauhant or Bristol beach. Surveys will be ordered as soon as the ACOE's issues the permit. The 2<sup>nd</sup> dredge is in dry dock, reason unknown. Barnstable has Dead Neck which has the same issue as Menauhant. They need to widen the inlet and lower the velocity which will have to be continually maintained. 3 million has already been spent by Barnstable.
- Simpson's Landing does not need a new chapter 91 license; the state considers work there to be a minor modification to the existing license.
- All capital items received positive recommendations from FinCom for the town meeting. If there is enough free cash, they may consider moving some of that money into our dredge account. Not for the stand-alone dredge budget but the ones we must do every year.
- **Megansett Dredging Permit Update by MSA (embayment and river):** The harbormaster has requested updates from the WHG on Megansett Approach and Waquoit Bay channels, no response yet. (email and cell) Will send updates as they come in.

- **Committee comments:**

The parking lot as White's landing is still on the agenda, we are waiting for a plan for the storm water run-off. Hopefully it will be done early spring. M Kammerer – Was there some equipment in need of repair? G Fraser- Yes, it was the long reach excavator that we used, it was repaired, and returned to Plymouth County. We have leased it over the last 3 years to do Fresh, Salt and Trunk River. The almost 70' long arm reach really makes an impact on those inlets. We are trying to find a way to use it to clear silt and sand from around the docks and ramps.

M Kammerer – Welcomes Rocky and thanks the town for getting the MOU. MSA has fund raised nearly 200K from over 115 ppl. MSA has Contracted with GEI. Concerned with taking care of Megansett Harbor and Squeteague, with recent high tides the breakwater and jetty are awash. Excited that there is 5 million in the marine section of the financial report for FY29, hoping it may be available sooner.

G Fraser – Explains that Ed Senteio, the Finance Director, may be looking at the old debt surplus to use for additional borrowing. 5 million will not be funded out of free cash. M Kammerer is happy to see the wood docks have a line item in 2 years. G Fraser explains the floats are done out of the line item and are expected to be done in the spring. The big-ticket items like replacement of bulkheads are voted in, approval depends on cost. M Kammerer - Buzzards Bay Coalition has been busy with the sewer treatment plant but are still supporting MSA. MSA has transferred into an LLC. A Ferrante – We have most of the money but hope to raise more. R Geyer – What's the financial support distribution between Bourne and Falmouth residents? A Ferrante -We signed an MOU with Bourne. If completed, Squeteague will end up with a channel down to the docks, Bourne will pay their share and Falmouth will pay our share. G Fraser – Most of the approach is in Bourne and we have not finalized an intergovernmental agreement. Although we have been working closely with Bourne, we don't know if we will file jointly or individually. We will not file until the 10-year comprehensive permit is finished. M Kammerer -Action is needed, there are boats with a 7' draft that must time their approach. There are safety issues, kids are jumping in front of boats and in the past the safety boat had trouble reaching us. Is there anything the MSA can do to move forward? G Fraser – We are working closely with Bourne, the issue is we cannot move forward with any new applications until the 10-year comp permit is issued.

M Kammerer – Will meetings continue to be in person? The committee agrees to discuss meeting platforms, such as hybrid at the next meeting.

R Geyer - Added a column to the priority list. Based on the number of moorings, docks and how many people benefit from that waterway.

<https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15148/2023-10-04-Priority-List>

G Fraser- We can move forward with Eel River once Con Comm meets and comes to a decision.

J Voci - The Select Board will meet on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> to interview Paul Hill, an applicant for the 7<sup>th</sup> WWC seat.

M Kinney – Does not feel the town should be responsible for navigable space for waterfront homes.

**Adjournment:** MOTION: adjourn at 17:52 M Kinney, 2<sup>nd</sup> J Voci - UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

**Next Meeting:** – November 1, 2023, 7:00 pm - Respectfully Submitted, By Paula Cushman