

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

Members present: Joe Voci (Chairman), Kevin King (Vice Chairman), Chuck Eastman, Mike Kinney, Wayne (Rocky) Geyer, Rick Hill, Gregg Fraser (Harbormaster) and Paula Cushman (Recording Secretary)

Members not present: C. Martinsen

Guests: Philippe & Eleanor Bouvier, Robert & Mary Ann McLaughlin, William & Barbara Erickson, Phil Sbarbaro, Jane Curtis, Steve Lincoln, Ann Prido, Jennifer Hughes, Joanna Brach, Huson & Mimi Gregory, Ann Worthington, Pat Carr, Winship Fuller, Todd Stone, Robert Olsen, Jim Cavanaugh, Robert Sperry, Ryan Clark, Bob Gorgone, Mike Taylor, Wendy Murphy, Peggy Szuplat, Judy Roth, and Molly Kammerer

Public Comments (Non agenda items): None

Review and approve the minutes of October 4, 2023

MOTION by R Hill, 2nd R Geyer, to approve minutes as printed.

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Harbor Master updates: November 1, 2023,

Non-Agenda Items:

- Wharfage contracts for 2024 ready to go out once fees approved by Select Board
- Waquoit Bay Channel Spoils – no new information currently
- New 105 arrived, likely will not be launched until 2024. Old 105 Edgewater being sold to Mashpee for \$20,000.
- DPW has started a paving project at Whites Landing. Grading, prep work and storm water work are underway now. Engineering is aware of larger vehicles.
- West Falmouth New float ramp due to be delivered on 11/3. Will not be installed until new floats are constructed in spring 2024.

Agenda Items:

- The conceptual schedule for the Eel River Inlet project includes many variables and approvals so subject to change. Engineering and permitting CZM grant application May 2024. Construction funding likely November 2027 capital and May 2027 CZM/Massworks grants. (estimated 2 years to fully permit without appeal delays) Current Engineering and Permitting cost is \$200,000.
- ACOE's Comp permit update. On October 25th ACOE requested additional information regarding disposal on Megansett Beach. Responded no nourishment is allowed or needed there currently, dewatering will be allowed by ConCom amendment after federal permit is issued. ACOE's now "finalizing" NOAA Section 7 take reporting & programatics. (separate ones required now, not one like they have done in the past, town has numerous disposal sites affected) Last guess from ACOE's barring any new issues would be mid to late November for issuance.

- Great Pond Dredging: Pre-dredge survey came back with a channel CYs at 8700. We must reduce this to approximately 4000 CY's. Contractor recalculating for a 60' dredge channel at -4 with a +1' Overdraft allowance. Only be able to do this if the ACOE's permit is issued by mid-November, otherwise other towns would be impacted due to the 1/15 TOY cut off.
 - Winter meetings preference from HM. No meeting in December, January through March remote.
- Eel River Inlet ConCom Mgt Update, discussion & vote WWC recommendations. Once the permit is filed with the ACOE's, guests are instructed to reach out to DCR, and the federal legislators, urging priority of this project. Harbormaster will submit to the Select Board for approval to file 2024 CZM grant. Funding of the town match will be determined by the town manager and finance director. Guests are concerned with the dangers of boaters parked along the channel on Washburn Island. They are advised to reach out to Tonna-Marie Rogers, Reserve Manager of WEBBNERR. Guests extend their support to the committee.

<https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15284/Eel-River-Inlet-Project-Estimated-Time-Line>

Petition to Request the Falmouth WWC to solve the Menauhant/Eel River Tightening and Subsequent Dangerous and Destructive Current.

<https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15373/Seacoast-Shores-Petition-2023>

Committee votes and agrees to move forward with permitting, as recommended by Concom, with partial removal of Washburn Island – Motion: UNANIMOUSLEY VOTED

- ACOE's update on comprehensive permit. Still waiting for approval.
- Approve as most recent general guideline for allocating money, dredging priority list. Members discuss need and maintenance. Buzzards Bay is replacing failed moorings. M Kammerer is assured this timeline will have no effect on Megansett

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

Motion: UNANIMOUSLEY VOTED – With K King's change for Eel River approach from L to M-H

- 2023 Fall dredging update (Great Pond Channel, Inlet and Bourne Inlet?) We are waiting for the permit.
- Member general comments
J Voci submitted his annual report of the WWC activities to the Select Board for review. R Geyer – Eel River, what is the process? G Fraser explains that he will prepare the file for the WWC to request permission from the Select Board to file for grant funding in May. Before May, we need a scope of services done by engineer, John Ramsey of Sustainable Coastal Solutions, Inc., and eventually we will need approval from the select board for construction.
- Member discussion on winter meetings (Dec-March), formats and frequency
To benefit all Falmouth residences, including non-winter residence, the committee agrees to delete the December meeting and have zoom meetings in January, February, and March.
Motion: UNANIMOUSLEY VOTED

Adjournment: MOTION: adjourn at 18:07, C Eastman 2nd M Kinney - UNANIMOUSLEY VOTED

Next Meeting: – January, Zoom, - Respectfully Submitted, By Paula Cushman