

**Danvers River Committee**  
**Thursday, January 19, 2023**  
**Meeting Minutes**

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday January 19,2023 at the Endicott Park Visitors Center (Conference Room) at 6:00pm.

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

**Member(s) absent:** Louie George  
Michael McCarthy  
Bob Moore

**Staff Present:** Christopher Sanborn, Director of Natural Resources  
Carolann Powers, Secretary

**Media Present:** None

Matt Byrne called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

**Secretary's Report:**

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the November and December 2022 meetings.

**Motion:** Made by Bill Fouhey, seconded by Tom Perry to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2022, meeting; All in favor: 7:0.

**Motion:** Made by Bill Fouhey, seconded by Tom Perry, to accept the minutes of the December 15, 2022, meeting; All in favor: 7:0.

Chris addressed some housekeeping items with the committee. He informed the group that the Town's Strategic Planning Committee had an ongoing meeting this evening from 6-8pm at the Holten Richmond Middle School. He encouraged members to drop by that meeting after this meeting. It was noted that attending is a good way for River Committee members to bring their ideas and concerns to the attention of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Chris Sanborn informed the committee that the new town website will roll out next week and noted that it has a feature that allows one to sign up for specific alerts that they would like to receive such as town board and commission meetings, agenda, and minute postings.

**New Business:**

RFQ's have been sent out to replace B dock at the town marina. Quotes are due next Friday with a decision to be made shortly thereafter. The plan will be to have the new docks delivered in by the end of March.

Matt Byrne asked if the contractor will be responsible for disposal of old docks and related material. Chris S. said no disposal is not part of the proposal. He noted his office will haul out old materials and store at Pope Landing; DPW will then be asked to disassemble and dispose of.

Dan DeLorenzo asked if a design was sent out for those to bid on. Chris said there is no specific design, but he provides minimum specifications.

Chris S. said it has been a relatively quiet and warm winter. No ice issues to report to date.

Chris updated the group on the budget status. He had touched upon it at the last meeting but reminded the committee that he will request \$25k to be earmarked for the dredging fund. Chris S. said Rodney Connelly, Town Finance Director, confirmed that the debt from last dredging project has been paid off.

Bill C. asked if there were any grants available for dredging. Chris said yes, they will apply but noted those grants tend to support those communities that partner with private businesses and marinas. Chris hopes to be able to establish these partnerships to increase the chances for receiving grant funds.

Tom Perry asked if other communities such as Beverly would contribute funding to the dredging project as it affects their waters as well. Chris said that is not likely.

Chris informed the committee that they are looking into funding some of the cost of replacing the gangway and pier at Crane River Marina through an ARPA grant for waterfront improvements. He'll have more information at the February meeting.

Bill C. asked if the same contractor would be replacing the gangway and piers as the docks. Chris said possibly, it is a more detailed project, and they will reach out to a broader pool of contractors to bid. He noted this project is required to meet ADA requirements and guidelines. Dan D. asked if anything specific triggered the additional ADA requirement. Chris said any time you have a new or refurbish project it must meet current ADA compliancy. Tom Perry asked if the same standard applied at Popes Landing. Chris said yes, but that falls to the state as it is a state public access area.

Chris distributed a spreadsheet of incident reports from this past season to the committee. Chris briefly reviewed the document and offered to supply specifics on any of the incidents if members are looking for more detail.

Bill C. asked if we could charge for our pump out service and use those funds toward dredging. Chris said no based on the contract for the grant that funds the pump out service we cannot charge for the service.

Dan D. asked what maintenance marina referred to on the report. Chris said the report reflects all service calls, including non-emergency. Marina maintenance would be repairs made to the town marina or public landing.

Matt Byrne asked if the town was still chasing outstanding waterways fees. Chris said no, they are up to date as far as slip fees and waterways fees go; but may have a few outstanding citations at the state level which are managed through the courts.

Tom P. asked what an animal call refers to. Chris said it is recovery of an animal in the water, typically deceased or an animal overboard.

The committee stated they liked the report and found it informative.

#### **Old Business:**

Bill Fouhey asked if anyone has heard from Bob Moore, committee member. Chris said no but offered to check in with him.

Matt B. asked if there were any updates regarding the Mead St. sewer concerns. Chris said he has had no further updates from the Town Engineer but the last he had heard they found nothing wrong in that area.

Mike C. asked if there was any news regarding what they plan to do with the Kernwood Bridge, as it needs repair. Chris S did not know specifics but had heard it would not be done before the Hall-Whitaker Bridge project. Matt B. noted he had heard that temporary bridges would be installed initially, then repairs or replacement performed, making it a lengthy project, potentially 10-13 years.

Bob H. asked if last big winter storm had higher tides than normal. Chris said yes.

**Motion:** Motion made by Bill Fouhey, seconded by Tom Perry, to adjourn the meeting of January 19, 2023. All in favor: 7 :0

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