

Danvers River Committee
Thursday, June 15, 2023
Meeting Minutes

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at the Endicott Park Visitors Center (Conference Room) at 6:00pm.

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

Member(s) absent: Brian Atherton
Michael McCarthy

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

Media Present: None

Other:

Matt Byrne called meeting called to order at 6PM.

Secretary's Report:

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the May 18th meeting.

Motion: Made by Bill Ciesinski, seconded by Dan DeLorenzo to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2023 meeting. All in favor: 7:0.

New Business:

The Committee discussed the nomination of a new chairperson. Matt Byrne suggested that given the absences at this month's meeting they table this discuss until next month.

Chris Sanborn informed the committee that Andrea Daley submitted a letter of resignation from committee membership. Bill Ciensinski said that Darryl Parker had expressed interest in being on the committee. Chris Sanborn also had another person that had written a letter of interest; however, all committee appointments would have to wait until the next Annual Town Meeting.

Chris Sanborn advised the committee of issues with the pump on the pumpout boat that would require replacement in the near future. Staff has made tentative repairs in the interim, but a full replacement would be required. Chris has reached out to the state Office of Marine Fisheries for funding assistance through the CVA Program. The replacement pump is estimated at \$6,500.

Chris Sanborn also advised the committee of issues with the fire pump on Marine 25. The problem is that fuel is being injected into the crankcase. The cause of this is likely related to the new, unvented fuel tanks under pressure in hot conditions likely pressurizing the fuel lines forcing air into the engine. Matt suggested tapping into the vessels fuel tank. Chris didn't want to make an alteration to the vessel's fuel tank. Chris' staff has come up with some extra procedures to ventilate the fuel tank prior to operation that seems to have resolved the problem though it has created an extra step in the overall process of starting and priming that pump in a high stress situation.

Matt Byrne asked that water quality be added to the agenda. Chris updated the committee that recent water quality testing at Sandy Beach has failed although that is not unusual given the recent heavy rains. The town has partnered with Salem Sound Coastwatch who has done sampling at 14 sites in area communities with 11 of those sites having high readings. So, the high bacteria levels are not exclusive to Danvers. He added that the Board of Health and Engineering Office has been working together to identify the source of high levels of bacteria in the Frost Fish Brook in Woodvale. Matt Byrne asked if this is likely a sewer break. Chris said that they're not ready to identify this as a sewer leak just yet as there could be any number of reasons for the high levels. The highest levels are being found in the Cornell Road area. Tom Perry and Matt Byrne asked about the sewer structure on Mead St. Chris replied that the Engineering Office was not aware of any issue with the main there though he would ask the Sewer Div. to look into further. Bill Ciesinski asked about down river testing around Liberty Marina relating to tannery barrels that were stored there in year's past. Chris said this testing is strictly for bacteria and has revealed the source is from upriver as the highest readings are on an outgoing tide.

Old Business:

There was discussion on the parking issues at Pope's Landing. Chris said that they've seen some improvement in the parking. It appears that the businesses that have been the biggest offenders have found alternative parking spaces. Robert Hemeon and Louis George asked about people using the area for lunch etc. Chris said this hasn't been an

issue and these people are still welcome to use the parking area. Matt Byrne said the DTAC has an agenda item for a crosswalk on Liberty St from the bakery to Pope's Landing. Chris expressed concerned about the potential for this adding to the parking problem. The committee discussed suggesting the town send letters to the new tenants in these areas to advise of the parking restrictions at Pope's Landing. Chris would do research on what department would be most appropriate for sending this letter.

Chris Sanborn updated the committee on work at the Crane River Marina. He reminded the committee of ARPA funds for waterway improvements. The town has signed a contract with VineGZA to permit and plan for a replacement pier and gangway at the Crane River Marina. The project will include an ADA compliant gangway 80'. The same funding will be used to survey and drafts plans at Sandy Beach to address drainage issues there. Matt Byrne asked about the shoreline stabilization project and whether these projects are tied together. Chris said this project will be separate and should be kept separate in order to expedite the pier project. Louie George asked about timeline of the project. Chris hopes to see a cost estimate by the end of the calendar year with a request for construction funding at the May 2024 town meeting and work to commence in Spring of 2025.

Motion: Motion made by Bill Ciesinski, seconded by Louie George, to adjourn the meeting of June 15, 2023. All in favor: 7:0

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