

Danvers River Committee
Thursday, July 20, 2023
Meeting Minutes

The Danvers River Committee held a public meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2023 at the Endicott Park Visitors Center (Conference Room) at 6:00pm.

Member(s) present: Louie George, Vice Chair
Dan DeLorenzo
William Ciesinski
Bill Fouhey
Robert Hemeon
Brian Atherton
Tom Perry
Michael McCarthy

Member(s) absent: Matthew Byrne, Chair
Gardner Trask, Selectman Liaison

Staff Present: Christopher Sanborn, Director of Natural Resources

Media Present: None

Other:

Louie G. called meeting called to order at 6PM.

Secretary's Report:

The committee was asked to accept the minutes of the June 15th meeting.

Motion: Made by Bill Ciesinski, seconded by Tom Perry to accept the minutes of the June 15, 2023 meeting. All in favor: 6:0. Brian Atherton and Michael McCarthy abstained.

New Business:

The Committee discussed the nomination of a new chairperson. It was determined that the discussion should be tabled again until all the members were present, including the current chair.

Chris S. was asked to bring before the committee a proposal from the Department of Public Works to support a brochure insert with the electrical bill regarding stormwater information and mitigation. Chris S. did not have a copy of the insert at the time of the meeting but asked for the committee to support the idea of adding the insert. Louie G. asked how this information reaches residents that don't receive electric or water bills or opt to pay and received bills online. Chris S. said he wasn't sure but believed they rely on social media outreach as another means of reaching a broader audience. The committee supports the initiative with a request for additional electronic outreach.

Chris S. brought to the committee's attention the passing of former River Committee member Jim Turcotte.

Chris S. said the Town received two applications for water dependent structures. One at 12 Jacobs Landing and the other at 9 Tibbetts Ave. Tibbetts being an amendment to an existing license requesting an extension to the float system. The overall structure at 12 Jacobs Landing has been designed around comments Chris S. provided to minimize impact on navigation and public use of the waterways. Chris S. has additionally provided comments on the proposed amendment at 9 Tibbetts and there is site visit with the applicant planned in the near future.

Old Business:

Chris S. provided an update on 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. Tom P. said the biggest offender that was supposed to be moving out in July is still there and there are still employees and visitors parking in the lot. Louie G. asked if the parking clerk could enforce the parking. Chris said that he's reluctant to have the parking clerk enforce the parking issues in the lot because the parking is regulated under a state CMR vs. a local by-law. This may complicate enforcement. The intent of the signage was more for educational purposes with the understanding that if we needed to enforce with fines that we'd have to re-evaluate the approach with our state partners.

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'. Town has since done a site visit with Vine GZA and they were planning to do survey work this week. Louie asked about alternatives to the 80' gangway. Chris S. said that there are no other solutions he's aware of that will meet those slope requirements. Louie George asked about the condition of the current pier and if it presents a safety concern. Chris said he believes the pier is currently safe, but it is unlikely we'll get many more years out of it.

Chris Sanborn provided an update to the committee on the pump on the pumpout boat that requires replacement. Chris S. received a call from the state Office of Marine Fisheries this morning that they will fund \$5,000 of the \$6,500 replacement cost.

Chris S. provided an update on the ongoing issues with the fire pump. They are still exploring solutions to address the excessive fuel getting into the crankcase. They may look into replacement over the winter months.

Dan D. mentioned the geese situation at Sandy Beach and whether the town was aware of it. Chris said he is aware and they're having the problem with geese throughout the town parks but acknowledged that it is probably worse at Sandy beach given its proximity to the water.

Louie G. asked that Chris S. share with Carolann the committee's condolences on the loss of her mother.

Motion: Motion made by Robert Hemeon, seconded by Bill Fouhey, to adjourn the meeting of July 20, 2023. All in favor: 8:0

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