

**TISBURY WATERWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES**

Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 5:30pm  
Meeting held remotely via Zoom platform

**In Attendance:** Jeff Canha, Paul Munafo, Roger Moffat Michael Baptiste and John Packer

**Also Present:** John Crocker, Danielle Ewart, Kim Elias, Lynne Fracker, Ben Robinson, Bob Landreth and Leslie Fields.

**1) Call to Order:** Jeff Canha opened the meeting.

**Public Comment:** Lynne Fracker stated an error in email she had relayed regarding the bid for the Patrol Boat and that the bid had come in below budget and not over budget as stated. She also asked that if time was permitting to continue with the recommended changes to the Waterways Regulation.

**2) Minutes:** Paul Manufo made a motion and Roger Moffat seconded to approve the minutes 4/22/2021 **(Approved 4-1 abstain)**

**3) Update -Woods Hole Group – permits for dredging in the Town of Tisbury:** Leslie Fields presented an update and schedule for of tasks completed and estimated time frame of tasks yet to be completed in order to secure the comprehensive permits. Permits for Lake Street and Tashmoo are still valid and permits for Vineyard Haven Harbor has expired. Applications for wrapping all the permits together have not yet been submitted yet. Leslie explained that there were a few outstanding tasks to do. The contract was for permitting for dredging in Vineyard Haven Harbor which was the back channel and behind the breakwater. Yet to be completed is identifying the varied disposal sites. Once sites have been identified, there will be a topographic survey of those areas and then sampling and analysis plan, preparation and approval. This is estimated to be completed by July 2021. Engineering and site plan to be completed in August of 2021 for Vineyard Haven Harbor. Environmental permitting to state and federal authorities to be completed by December 2021. Grant Applications to Seaport Economic Council Program and Mass Works Program will be submitted by December 2021. It is estimated that it will take six to nine months for all the permit applications to be approved. This will allow the project construction phase to begin in the winter of 2022/2023. There was discussion, Ben Robinson suggested that Woods Hole Group reach out to Applied Coastal to ascertain if any of the spoils from the dredge could be used as part of their coastal resiliency and storm mitigation project. Leslie informed the Committee that she had reached out to them some time ago but will again. Applied Coastal Engineering will be making a presentation to the Waterways Committee at the next meeting.

- 4) **Owen Park Pier Replacement:** John Crocker explained that it was determined some time ago that the Owen Park Pier Own Park Pier needing to be replaced. He has given the idea of replacing the existing with a concrete structure at lot of thought and because of the cost involved and its ability to withstand a hurricane, as well as some level of push back with aesthetics has had second thoughts and would now like to explore replacing with a traditional wooden structure using green heart pilings, like that of Lake Tashmoo. Building a 300 ft pier, the current pier is 7 to 9ft wide and is permitted to 10ft and would be beneficial to have a wider pier. The "T" at the end of the dock has 4ft to 6ft that is not permitted. His thought was to get permitting for the "T" to be wider by approximately 5ft. The reason for this is to be able place a small building. In the summer, the prier is busy, this would enable staff to be able to complete payment transactions easier and enable staff to be able monitor the pier and harbor more effectively. The new pier could be incorporated to have a small transfer bridge to the dinghy floats. Making easier access for boaters and especially those who may have some physical difficulties. In 2018 there was a price estimate of \$1m. John has asked for a new price estimate and it is expected to cost more in addition he has asked for a price estimate for the demolition of the current pier. He expects those estimates shortly. He has been researching funding different sources for some time. The Town of Tisbury currently has approximately \$300,000 for its share of the cost. Typically, the Town would be expected to fund about 25% of the project. The town has been successful in the past in securing funding from the Economic Seaport Economic Council and is hopeful that they will fund this project. A new permit would need to be acquired regardless of whether a pier was built to its current design or whether to a new larger design. John Packer felt that it would not cost much more to allow a design for a larger dock and maybe money well spent in the permitting and design process. Roger Moffat expressed that it may well be worth permitting and building a dock that may meet all future needs regardless. The next step would be permitting, a design drawing to submit with permitting application, then it would go to conservation commission after which to the Army Corp of Engineers. John Crocker is planning to do the permitting process himself rather than using a consultant. It was suggested by Geoff Canha that the committee make recommendation to Select Board to hire a professional consultant to design, permitting and schedule of preliminary cost. There was discussion regarding expanding the dinghy docks and concerns regarding having to take some moorings away from people to accomplish the expansion, depending on configuration. It was suggested to look at a design configuration that might increase revenue for the Town.

After further discussion Roger Moffat made and motion and John Packer seconded to recommend that the Harbormaster proceed in engaging an engineer to draw up at least three different preliminary professional concept drawings to present at the next the Waterways Committee.

(Voted 3-1 Nay)

- 5) **Lake Tashmoo Eel Grass Study:** Danielle informed the Committee that she and John had met Mark Russo, part of the state habitat program and DMF. They were informed that DMF would be coming out this summer to help with the eel grass study. Danielle presented a map of the survey

area. They will do a side scan survey and ground truthing drop cameras of the bottom. They will be using their own vessel equipment. They will be looking at open areas and not doing the mooring areas or flats. Danielle will be out on the vessel with them. This came about when it was discovered when there was some eel grass found in what was a potential aquaculture site. As the last survey was done in 2013 it was felt that new data was needed to assist in making informed decisions regarding the area surveyed. Geoff Canha asked if it is determined to be an eel grass area and subject to closure, is there a mitigation plan in place. John Crocker explained that the report is not expected until the end of the year and therefore no plan is in place as the data is needed. There is no cost to the Town for conducting the survey. Lynne asked if there was going to be testing of the bottom and felt concerned about the eel grass not being healthy in the acidic mud in the area. Would like to see a management plan for the anchoring area if eel grass found. John Packer asked if testing periodically where eel grass was known to be prolific areas and if it changed from year to year. Bob asked about the main channel and if there has been any eel grass the channel. Danielle was not expecting to see any eel grass in those areas because of dredging.

Paul Munafo made a motion and John Packer made a motion to adjourn.

**(Voted 5-0)**

Next Waterways Committee Meeting: June 2,2021