

Minutes of the July 21, 2016 Hingham Harbor Development Committee Meeting

Attending: HHDC: W. Reardon, E. Morris, P. Losordo, D. Anderson (simply listening to the proceedings by phone), T. Coveney, E. Kachel, B. Knies

Bathing Beach Trustees: Chris Daly

Harbormaster: Ken Corson

7:00 PM -- Town Hall

1. The Committee met first at the inner harbor boat ramp for a visual inspection and a discussion with Doug Cameron of the Public Access Board. Concepts for replacement were discussed as well as related time frames. It was also noted that the shoaling in the harbor beyond the bottom of the ramp restricts access for boats being launched at lower tides. This touches on a separate topic of the need to dredge the harbor ahead of the normal schedule.
2. The Committee reconvened at Town Hall to continue the discussion. Four different conceptual boat ramp drawings by Vine Associates dated November 2007 were reviewed. Paul Losordo moved and it was seconded and voted unanimously to support the concept of a new pier and float system to be constructed parallel to the Southerly side of the boat ramp as it may be reconfigured be utilized to assist boaters in launching boats generally as shown on a plan drawn by Vine Associates in 2007 and to designate the Harbormaster to work with the state agencies to further the design and permitting of said pier and float system.
3. The minutes from the June 14, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved.
4. Nomination and Election of Committee leadership for FY 2017 was voted. The Chair and Vice-Chair will remain Bill Reardon and Paul Losordo. Vice-chair Paul Losordo offered to step down in one year. Tom Coveney will become secretary/clerk effective with the next meeting.
5. The committee discussed goals for 2017 with each member listing possible goals. Ideas included updating the 2007 landscape architecture Harbor Master Plan, extending the harbor walk, discussion of a pedestrian bridge over Rte. 3A, soliciting public input possibly via another survey, dredging, building facilities to draw in more transient boaters as well as working with the HDIC for the same.
6. Possible harbor CPC applications for FY 2017 included extending the harbor walk on both the Bathing Beach Grove area and the Selectmen's Parcel in front of the bandstand and potentially design funding for a transient boater facility on the former Mobil Station site.
7. Discussed the need for dredging as evidenced by the obvious shoaling noted at the boat ramp. Although the harbor was last dredged in 2009 and was not planned again until 2021 Ken Corson planned to begin making calls to begin the process sooner. There is a possibility of beginning maintenance dredging which could be easier to design and permit.

8. The committee continued a discussion on Phase II of Beals & Thomas Wharf Survey/Engineering Consulting Work, with reference to a schedule prepared by Eric Las showing estimated costs for Phase II work on all four of the prioritized town owned wharf parcels. It was agreed that the Chair should share that schedule with ADCOM to consider accelerating the work of more than the one location that funds currently support.
9. The Bathing Beach Trustees reported progress on the bathhouse/snack shack project, including selection of an architect and initial meetings to define the building's scope and mission. They also noted that on July 12 there was a formal visit by Lieutenant Governor Polito with many town officials present to acknowledge the State's financial support of \$700K for the project
10. The Chair briefly described the July 2 Whitney Wharf Bridge opening ceremony, with approximately 60 town officials and citizens attending.
11. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 18 and the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00PM