

Minutes of the April 13, 2016 Hingham Harbor Development Committee Meeting

Attending: HHDC: W. Reardon, E. Morris, P. Losordo, D. Anderson, T. Coveney

Bathing Beach Trustees: Ed Johnson

Advisory Committee: Eryn Kelly

Audience: Rosamund Conroy from Hingham Maritime Center (formerly Lincoln Maritime Center)

7:00 PM -- Town Hall

1. Approved minutes of March 2, 2016 with a couple of edits.
2. A moment of silence was observed for John Riley
3. Chair Bill Reardon updated the committee on the wharf study status. He is invited to the Advisory Committee meeting on April 19. The wharf study recommendations need socialization. The advisory committee is the proxy for the town meeting and a good sounding board for input as HDC continues its deliberations. HDC will need to have more and better information before making a recommendation.
4. Town engineer Roger Fernandes met with Chairman Bill Reardon and Eric Las from Beals and Thomas last Friday to discuss the results of the wharf study conducted by Beals and Thomas. CZM (coastal zone management) had done a study a few years ago but the report is still in its draft form. Roger explained the rating system given to each Hingham Harbor wharf in the study. The next step is to perform feasibility studies for the repair of various wharfs. Based on the rating of each wharf and the feasibility study, discussions of which wharfs to make a priority can begin when we have clearer information on relative costs and risks. Eric will provide that information before our next meeting
5. Chairman Reardon discussed naming the Whitney Wharf bridge. He referenced a naming "process" that is actually in the town by-laws. It indicates that a proposed name needs to be submitted to the Selectmen, advertised, screened by the Historical Commission and ultimately approved by voters at Annual Town Meeting. The Harbor Development Committee had previously discussed and suggested naming the bridge in recognition of Dave Fenton, a former committee member who recently passed away. Town Historian Alec MacMillan has suggested to the Selectmen that the bridge be named the Peter Hobart Bridge. Tom Coveney suggested naming it after Corporal Chris Orlando, a marine who was killed in a military exercise this past winter.
6. For assistance in the landscape component of the 3A Transportation Corridor contract lead consultant DCI has enlisted the well respected landscape architecture firm Pressley Associates. With the biannual grant application deadline approaching, the Greenbush Trust may also be solicited for funding additional landscape work beyond Pressley's somewhat narrow scope. Working with Chairman Reardon, Committee member Deirdre Anderson agreed to draft a grant request for up to \$50K to HDC.
7. Chairman Reardon reviewed the articles to go before town meeting and in which order to organize them. He also noted that the Bath house/snack stand may need approval from the state legislature if the proposed location falls under the "Open Space" definition.

8. Chairman Reardon publicly thanked Dierdre Anderson for the signage she had procured to describe on going projects.
9. Whitney Wharf Bridge is within two weeks of completion.
10. The process has begun for the bath house/snack shack. An RFQ for design has been issued and several architectural firms have expressed interest. Proposals are due April 27 and the intention is to have a designer under contract by mid May.
11. The Bathing Beach Seawall project is currently under construction and expected to be completed before the beach opens.
12. Pink Stakes have appeared along the 3A corridor indicating that consultant DCI has begun work on the \$400K engineering study approved at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting
13. The long term lease for the Hingham Maritime Center still has not been signed but HMC executive director Rosamund Conroy indicated that progress was being made and a signed lease is anticipated in the near future.
14. The next meeting was set for May 17