

Duxbury Beach Seawall Committee Minutes – April 17, 2018

TOWN CLERK

2018 JUN -4 AM 8:16

DUXBURY, MASS.

Present: DSWC Members: Alicia Babcock, Paul Brogna, Steve Callahan, Candace Martin, Don Norris, Mary Shiebler, Tim Spellman, Timothy Tedeschi, Dimitri Theodossiou

The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM. Committee members introduced themselves and conducted election of officers. Alicia Babcock-Chair, Candace Martin-Vice Chair, Mary Shiebler-Clerk.

Mr. Read presented current town update pertaining to seawall.

-MEMA reported that thresholds for "state of emergency" qualification have been exceeded statewide. MEMA optimistic for Federal declaration to release FEMA funding possibly at the end of May.

-Mr. Read explained that the Town has no current funds to support repair/replacement of seawall. They have also reached their cap on deficit spending and cannot afford to make any additional emergency repairs. The replacement and maintenance of the existing 3500 feet of seawall is an ongoing situation and is estimated to take upwards of 10 years to accumulate enough grant money for full replacement. Consideration of line item status in future town budgets was requested at Selectmen's last meeting.

-FEMA will reimburse to the Town 75% of damaged wall repairs. The Town is responsible for the 25% balance as well as any improvements beyond the original structure, which are not covered by FEMA. He explained the process to obtain override for the projected \$5.7M for these repairs: Board of Selectmen support a warrant article and declare a special Town meeting (tentatively September 2018). Approval of 2/3 of registered voters present to approve and place the override question on the Town ballot in November (previously scheduled election ballot), where a simple majority is necessary to approve. This would ensure the Town reimbursement of 75% of costs by FEMA when repairs are completed. Impact to residents would be .55 cents a day. Passage will necessitate support of a majority of our Town as in other overrides. This will require educating the mainland Duxbury community about the effects of losing Gurnet Road and seawall neighborhoods (200 families), the protection the seawall provides for the marsh and the Bay, and the impacts to Bayside residents.

-Due to constraints of November ballot and pending approval, along with being unable to begin seawall work in winter weather, it appears that repair work on the wall will not be able to start until Spring 2019. This resulted in a discussion of possibility of delaying warrant request until regularly scheduled Special town meeting (held prior to annual meeting) in March 2019. This would allow time for Amory Engineering to complete permitting process through Federal, State and local agencies to allow work to begin immediately in April 2019. In light of the anticipated 2019 wall repair date, it was noted that the temporary fixes in which the Town worked diligently to secure the wall against this Spring's multiple storms and high tides, must be reviewed and re-secured to assure they can sustain the wall through the coming hurricane season and next winter storms.

Pat Brennan from Amory Engineering was introduced. Amory Engineering has a master service agreement with the Town. Therefore, they have an established working relationship from other civil projects which are not seawall related. There was discussion of time frames for Amory Engineering to be able to provide plans and bids by the tentative September meeting. Permitting to be done concurrently. Permits are part of the construction contract. The design will be for the entire wall. A full condition survey of the wall is part of the design process. Mr. Brennan agreed to provide DBSWC with scope of work, schedule, deliverables and design in draft form in 2 weeks for their review. Discussion of same will be held at next meeting in 3 weeks.

There was discussion and general agreement that grant funding should also be sought for wall repair and in anticipation of remaining wall replacement. General discussion was that there are grants that we qualify for. Cristin Luttazi from the Duxbury Reservation and Valerie Massard Town Planner will assist with information on grant identification and the submission process. Town and DBR will provide the Seawall Committee, via shared website (Dropbox), with prior coastal studies conducted that are informational and may impact seawall. It was noted that if possible Duxbury should align itself with other local, coastal communities/municipalities to request funding and or jointly apply for grants. Also that DBSWC should explore how our neighboring communities are handling seawall improvements and the issues surrounding them.

There was general discussion of the history of the seawall and its issues and some of the beach/tide/wall studies that have been done. And how to seize the opportunity for FEMA funding of 75% of damaged wall repair/replacement.

Follow up: Alicia will meet with Valerie regarding grants; Candace will meet with Marshfield DPW and their Coastal Advisory Committee staff for general input on how they are proceeding with seawalls; Cris from DBR will use Dropbox to provide studies. Town webpage will be updated to have section on this committee. Rene' will provide an update at the next meeting on status of Town Council review of easements and seawall ownership.

Committee agreed to meet every other Tuesday at 7PM, location TBD. Next meeting will be Tuesday May 8 at 7PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35PM.