

TOWN CLERK

2018 JUN 11 AM 8:38

DUXBURY, MASS.

Duxbury Seawall Committee Minutes – May 15, 2018

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM in the McCluskey Room at the Senior Center.

Approval of minutes from 05/08/18 were deferred until next meeting.

An update from the Town Manager was provided in an email as he was not able to attend the meeting.

"The engineering contract between the Town and Amory Engineering has been signed. They are in the process of working on applications for all phases of permitting; have contacted their surveying firm who will be surveying the existing conditions in the next week and are preparing a timeline of events per the Committee's request.

At the end of last week, Town Counsel advised me that the seawall is owned by the State. This is important since I wanted to make sure that our current Town Counsel's opinion concurs with that of our previous counsel."

Open Forum

Residents raised questions on why Duxbury is not maintaining and repairing the seawall as is done in Marshfield. A question was also raised on the selection of the design firm and asked why CLE was not selected, based on their experience with Marshfield and Scituate. This lead into discussion by the committee on the concern that the design firm was not selected based on qualifications. Information has not been provided to demonstrate that Amory has any experience with sea wall design. While disappointed in the decision by the Town Manager, the Committee decided to delay sending written communication to the Town Manager and Selectmen on the concerns with this decision.

Old Business

Seawall Committee Charge

There was a general discussion of the draft statement of our mission by the Committee members. A clear definition remains vital to our effectiveness as a Committee. Participation by Town staff as part of our group is essential. Group agreed to revisit our mission and understanding of our role.

Members indicated that it was the hope of this Committee that by producing a competitive situation with relevant engineering options, a decision would be made with the input from our group, that includes five (5) engineers, to select the most qualified firm. The Town has made its selection of Amory Engineering and they are moving forward without the collaboration of the Committee. The Town has entered into contract for \$80-100,000. The concept of peer review by another experienced design firm was supported by this Committee. Committee agreed that at this point in the conceptual stage, peer review would be the only way to alleviate many common concerns expressed by residents and this Committee.

Public Relations

Lauren Curley is an independent marketing consultant with 30 years experience including nonprofits, environmental issues and preserving ocean health. She was invited to present a short overview of her perception of the public relation work ahead of us. She discussed the need for a clear determination of

our mission by this group and the Town before building an education/communication plan that can be successfully formulated. There is a great deal of misinformation and lack of information in the Duxbury community at large regarding the seawall and surrounding area, repair/replacement costs and the impact of wall failure to the entire town. This will require a thorough ongoing approach for an active communication campaign.

A private citizen public relation group will be explored by the area resident associations. There are many residents with experience in marketing and public relations who can be utilized to support our efforts. Funding for this campaign from the resident associations was discussed although many feel that it should be the Town's responsibility to openly support and fund such an effort. Local resident volunteers are willing to work cooperatively to help the Town achieve this goal however, the funding and implementation should not rest solely on the residents.

New Business

There was discussion that Amory Engineering indicated they would be using Grady Civil Engineering in the existing condition survey. As Amory proceeds with current wall evaluation, this Committee requests that it be notified when the survey is physically being conducted. Amory, per their contract, will be advising, "the Town on temporary measures to reinforce existing areas of seawall as needed." The damaged sections of the seawall are in critical need of repair/reinforcement/armor stone and metal plate realignment prior to any ocean storms. It is vital that recommendations for emergency wall and drainage issues be formulated by the end of June to assure completion by end of November. Town maintains their position that there are no funds to support enhancement of the emergency repairs done during the March storms. It was noted that a FEMA reimbursement to Town of 75% of the \$250,000 from free cash (allotted at Town Meeting in March 2018) spent on the emergency repairs, would provide a funding source to move forward with this necessary storm preparation.

Action Items

- a. Minutes from 05/08/18 and 05/15/18 meetings to be circulated to members for review prior to approval at next meeting- Mary
- b. State grants for Dam and Seawall Repairs opened on Monday 05/21/18. Alicia will request an update from Town Manager on the progress to submit request for grant money.
- c. With reconfirmation that the State owns the wall, we need clarification on responsibilities by the Town and State on maintenance. Alicia will discuss with Rene'.
- d. Design approach of other recent sea wall designs will be discussed with Scituate and Marshfield. Paul will reach out to his contacts. Alicia will also request Amory project timeline & dates planned for conducting the condition survey (originally due to us at 05/08/18 meeting).
- e. DSWC designee attendance at Amory meetings was defined as Tim, Candy, and Dimitri.
- f. A draft of the revised mission statement was issued out to Committee Members. Comments to be submitted to Candy prior to the next meeting.
- g. The next Committee meeting will be on June 7th at 7pm. It is requested that a member of Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Town Planner, DPW Director, Pat Buchanan from Amory Engineering all attend our next meeting
- h. Alicia will follow up with Lauren for feedback on the meeting discussion. Also need to explore available funds from Duxbury Beach Association & Webster Island Association.
- i. Easements – Request update report from Town Council at next meeting

Next meeting will be Thursday June 7, 2018 at 7PM. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 PM.