

Duxbury Seawall Committee Minutes –February 20, 2019

Present: DSWC Members: Alicia Babcock, Paul Brogna, Steve Callahan, Arthur Haley, Candace Martin, Don Norris, Mary Shiebler, Tim Spellman, Ted Flynn (BOS), Betsy Sullivan (FinCom)

TOWN CLERK
2019 MAR -7 AM 10:57
DUXBURY, MASS.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM in Mural Room at Town Hall.

The minutes of 12/19/2018 meeting were approved as presented (5-0-3 abstain).

The minutes of 01/17/2019 meeting were approved as presented (5-0-3 abstain).

1. OLD BUSINESS

Soil Testing Update-None. Test borings for samples not done. Tim will speak with Amory to get name of testing company for follow up by Committee.

Summary of BOS/Fiscal Advisory/Finance Committee Meeting on 02/05/2019 –Warrant articles discussed. Mr. Adams did presentation of Seawall Article with proposed funding -2 parts to wall replacement project: 1: failed wall replacement at height 24.5 MLW, steel sheeting and revetment. 2: revetment placement on remainder of seawall.

BOS Meeting on 02/11/2019 presented only viable options for wall repair as replace “in kind” (replace wall as it existed the day before it fell 1950s model) or replace with increased height/sheeting/revetment. Issue with FEMA approvals for improved wall extending to 8-12 months from now. In kind approval has been obtained. Cost variances from previous numbers. Recommended clarification with FEMA on a number of questions before finalizing Warrant Article.

There was a general discussion and many questions regarding building of “in kind” (1950 structure with rebar and possible sheeting) vs. version of higher improved wall as had been planned. FEMA will not reimburse Hazard Mitigation costs (difference between “in kind” and improved) unless project approved PRIOR to start of construction. This means waiting 8-12months before construction would begin if improved wall selected as option. Discussion of funding options, wall options. It was noted that 2012 report indicated seawall was outdated then and needed replacement with higher wall. This report proposed options; do nothing or several increased height options. Town took no action at that time. In kind replacement (1950 model) would basically cost Town nothing, local area residents would bear the majority burden of difference between FEMA reimbursement/\$1M Grant and actual in kind costs. Reimbursement/payment options for higher walled as planned were discussed. Questions to be referred to Mr. Adams.

2. NEW BUSINESS

Alicia reported that there are 210 registered voters from the neighborhood.

3. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 2/27/19 at 7 PM, location TBA.

Agenda to include DSWC discussion of support of Warrant Option

Tuesday 3/5/19 at 7 PM, location TBA

4. ACTION ITEMS FROM MEETING:

1. It was previously reported that the State Grant can be used to bridge the gap between the FEMA funding and the cost of the project. Using the presentation that John prepared for the Selectmen:

	Town Estimate		
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>of FEMA Reimbursement</u>	<u>Full Reimbursement</u>
In Kind	\$2,720,000	\$1,550,285	\$2,040,000
Upgrade	<u>\$1,445,700</u>	<u>\$823,989</u>	<u>\$1,084,275</u>
	\$4,165,700	\$2,374,275	\$3,124,275

The difference between the Town estimate of FEMA reimbursement and the Full Reimbursement is \$750K. The assumption is that you can't double dip from the two different grants. Can this be confirmed?

2. The options for FEMA reimbursement include:

1. Repair (wall footprint and height remain the same but wall is reinforced with rebar)
2. Repair with Mitigation (adds steel sheeting)
3. Improved Wall Design (Higher wall/base as designed)

Option 1 was confirmed with FEMA that this is eligible for 75% reimbursement.

Option 2 may be eligible and may be confirmed before town meeting.

Option 3 will require 8-10 months for FEMA to determine eligibility and amount of reimbursement. It was stated last night that if we proceed with this design and start construction, FEMA will not reimburse for ANY portion of the repairs. It was noted that contracts can be established to require segregation of costs of wall in-kind replacement to improved wall design. Need confirmation of information presented last night.

3. Tonight, we were told that the funding request in the warrant will now be based on FEMA's estimate. So it was very confusing if we are asking for \$4.1M or something around \$6M. An estimate of Phase 1 (800 ft.) is needed.
4. We need a confirmation of the total cost of the wall replacement. This has been reviewed at a few Seawall Committee meetings but numbers presented tonight were noting \$35M for the entire wall. Can we get the basis of this? The previously discussed estimate was \$21M - \$24M. The basis for this estimate used the Amory cost/linear ft. with escalation and the wall was replaced in phases over the next 10 years. Phases used were:

<u>Construction</u>	<u>LF</u>	
Phase I	800	OCN & Cable Hill
Phase II	800	OCS
Phase III	850	Bay Ave
Phase IV	500	Gurnet Road South
Phase V	550	Gurnet Road North

5. Boring Tests have not been scheduled and will need to be completed as soon as possible (especially to avoid busy spring season). Tim will contact Amory to get information on the company they are trying to schedule and to determine timing.
6. Permit Status – need update on progress and to get copies of any comments received. It was mentioned that requests were made to move wall back and that revetment work for remaining wall is under question.
7. It was noted that a new permit was filed for the In-Kind Replacement. It was requested that copies of permit filing and drawings for the proposed option of wall design based on the existing footprint.
8. Tom Kelley, ORN, requested a concise summary of message points to relay to neighbors. Draft notes will be forwarded out to the resident list.
9. An agenda item will be added to Monday's Selectmen Meeting to discuss seawall warrant.

Open Action Items from previous meetings:

1. Easements - Cover Letter for easements was drafted by Town Council. Additional questions/comments were forwarded. Need copy of updated letter to residents and timing for these to be issued.
2. Grants - need to research grant opportunities (R. Read/Town Planning Staff)
 - a. Revetment Hazard Mitigation measures
 - b. Next phase of seawall construction
 - c. Evaluation of flooding of area roadways - New FEMA flood maps shows bay area is now a VE zone. Gurnet Road floods at every astronomical high tide. Horseshoe area now floods since Beach Reservation raised parking lot and roadway.
 - d. Drainage at Hummock Lane – area residents are not able to access homes for days when area floods.
 - e. Restoration of dunes at Plymouth Ave (allowed under Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act for property owners).
 - f. Grant Writer - Suggestion to request grant for a part-time grant writer is recommended by the Seawall Committee. (Open from previous meetings)
3. Betterments were proposed for properties within 300' of the seawall. Request was made to assess betterments for all residents. Need to research the betterments that were previously assessed. Did this apply to all residents in the neighborhood? (R. Read)
4. Construction – proposed to start in June. Need estimate of construction duration. (Amory)
5. Beach Ownership – discussed at November meeting. Left as open issue that may be needed to address for annual Town Meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

