

**Duxbury Seawall Committee Minutes –Wednesday June 20 , 2018**

TOWN CLERK

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

2018 JUN 29 AM 10:59

DUXBURY, MASS.

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

The minutes of 06/07/18 meeting were approved as presented.

**3. OLD BUSINESS-TOWN MANAGER UPDATE-Mr. Read reported:**

3.1.1 Town Counsel has drafted letter regarding State ownership of wall and its ensuing maintenance responsibilities. Letter will be sent tomorrow or Friday to Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM). Josh Cutler is copied on letter and aware of situation. He will be following up on State level. Mr. Read indicated nothing is guaranteed regarding State reimbursement but this will put Town on the record in the ownership/maintenance issue.

3.1.2 Environmental Bond Bill-The Bill was passed in House and moved to Senate. It is for \$1M in discretionary spending/authorized borrowing. FEMA Reimbursement- Still waiting President's signature. Mr. Read has emailed FEMA but has received no response. He indicated New Hampshire declaration was signed 1-2 weeks ago.

3.1.3 Easements-Continue to be worked on by Staff. More progress is expected after Town Meeting Notice is completed. With idea of being proactive, the DSWC requested list of outstanding easements with priority being damaged wall area, to assist in completing as we are able.

There was discussion about the open area (no seawall) near Webster Island, and the ensuing flooding of the neighborhood. In 2009 on Inventory Assessment this area was identified as a top priority. There were grants available with 50% paid by State. Unfortunately there were no requests made by Town. This area remains critical in area flooding.

3.1.4 Funding Presentation to Selectmen- Mr. Read explained process for funding: next Monday (6/25) there will be a Selectmen's Meeting to open a Town Meeting Warrant that is 2 fold: one to address the debt exclusion that funded the emergency repairs and second on how to fund the wall. All 6 funding options will be presented by Mr. Read to the Selectmen. He will endorse Option 3 (Betterment \$320 and Taxpayers \$7.71). Betterments will not be assessed until work is completed. The Betterment for 300 feet from seawall has a history when original wall was built. This Betterment is to replace only the damaged seawall areas. The remaining wall will be replaced using grants and Capital funding. Going forward Duxbury will be applying annually for grants. Amory will be writing these grants. Question of possible funding contribution by Plymouth County was raised. Mr. Read indicated that the Town will not spend time on this as Plymouth County Government has history of ineffectiveness and County Government is, 'On the way out'.

The Selectmen will decide on funding Option for the Warrant. Warrant Articles will be closed 7/23/18. The Special Town Meeting is scheduled for September 6. Mr. Read clarified that only Duxbury registered voters can participate in the Special Town Meeting (9/6) and then the November Ballot issue voting. For non resident owners, they would have to register as Duxbury residents and register to vote in Duxbury to have a vote on the wall funding.

There was discussion regarding the annual \$50,000 allotted to DBR for beach preservation. The 7.5 miles of barrier beach in Duxbury, is one beach that all requires protection, nourishment and preservation as a barrier beach. Question was asked as to focus of funding resources.

Mr. Read reported that the projected costing of the 700' wall construction is reduced to \$4.2M from \$5.7M. With this revision by Amory, there would be available funding for revetment of entire seawall along with replacement of damaged areas. The revetment stones could be recycled as other wall sections are replaced. Revetment would occur not long after it is permitted. There will be a line item for \$1M for rip/rap and Amory is the Construction Engineer for this item.

### 3.2 OLD BUSINESS-AMORY ENGINEERING UPDATE – Mr. Read reporting for Amory:

3.2.1 Dam&Seawall Grant Application-Mr. Read reported that application is complete and will be overnighted to State tomorrow (6/21). It is due 6/22. This grant request is for \$3M. He was unsure of exact grant award timetable, but it is usually a September time frame.

3.2.2 Preliminary plan copies were provided. These are being submitted for the grant. They are not complete. They are not construction documents. The Ocean Road North seawall will be 5.8 feet higher than current wall. The wall north of Cable Hill will be 3.8 feet higher. The 2011 Bourne Study was used in these determinations. There was much discussion regarding the design. Many questions required Amory to be present. Next meeting will be set around Pat Brennan's availability. Dimitri submitted several questions that will be forwarded to Pat by Mr. Read. Benchmarking with other local towns on wall design and pricing was previously requested by Committee and request remains outstanding for Mr. Brennan.

### 3.3 OLD BUSINESS- DPW UPDATE-Mr. Buttus emailed report and Mr. Read supplemented reporting:

3.3.1 Estimate of Stabilization of damaged wall sections and permitting process- No report on specifics of costing for summer/winter storm preparations. There is no money. Town equipment will be on beach to reset stones that have been moved by tides to date.

3.3.2 Concrete Steps Ocean Road North-New metal sign placed today and a second sign will be posted on street side entrance to beach easement. Stairs are unsafe and not to be used. Suggestion that ropes be intertwined on the railings to deter access was submitted.

3.3.3 Car Counter- No report. Alicia will follow up with Valerie Massard, Town Planner.

### 3.4 CHARGE

Draft of new charge discussed. Changing name of Committee would provide a consistency with other local Towns with similar groups and objectives. There would be a barrier beach emphasis-we are ONE beach. Various points in draft could be combined-additions and deletions as committee evolves. Discussion and suggested changes must take place in open meeting. There is a protocol for Selectmen approval. Candy will adjust Committee work plan suggestions and forward to Rene.

### 4. OPEN FORUM

Larry Dullea -noted that the suggested Committee charge tasks may overlap with other current Committees. He suggested developing a narrow scope for a separate entity with long range goals and retaining the current committee as short term-dealing with wall.

Jeffrey Deady- posed questions regarding preliminary wall plans – specifically with a 6 foot increase in wall height-there are safety, retaining fill requirements, handicap access requirements.

Geri Carter, Gurnet Road-Noted regarding voter registration that owners be aware of Town Clerk timelines for registering and recording. This could avoid votes not being counted. DSWC will follow up.

Maureen Sullivan, Gurnet Road-Questioned Betterment vs. Taxpayers (Option 1 \$16/year), since many seasonal and permanent residents in the area do not utilize schools, bridge and other Town services.

C. Murphy, Lewis Ct- Asked for clarification on votes required to approve warrant (2/3 of those present) and Town Meeting (simple majority of those present).

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

*Emergency Preparedness*-there has been an ongoing question posed by Committee regarding emergency preparedness-what is the plan going forward? Mr. Read noted there is no money so, in the event there are further areas of wall damaged, deficit spending would be used. There are multiple available resources to procure additional stones for securing wall. Information for residents: if preventative measures are taken to prevent further damage, there MAY be Federal reimbursement available.

*Engineering Peer Review*-Question to Mr. Read on process for peer review of Amory. The wall is a significant investment for the Town and engineering peer review is a standard practice. It would seem in best interest of Town to review and benchmark other local towns wall construction. It would increase confidence level of local taxpayers if another firm with seawall building experience reviewed Amory proposals and plans.

Paul Brogna suggested "holding" on the peer review question while group could meet with Marshfield DWP, wall Project Manager, others involved with their sea wall replacement. Rene asked that Mr. Buttkus and Mr. Brennan be included. Paul will coordinate.

6. NEXT MEETING – due to holiday and request that Amory (Pat Brennan) and Town Manager be present at next meeting-dates of July 10-11 or 12 were suggested. Rene will coordinate with Pat and let Alicia know date that will work for both.

## 7. ACTION ITEMS

Marshfield wall/DWP field trip- Paul to coordinate

Updated easement list to DSWC- Rene

Emergency preparedness plan- Peter Buttkus

Car counters-Alicia

Benchmark Scituate, Marshfield, Quincy- Pat Brennan

Preliminary plan questions from Dimitri-to Mr. Read to Pat

Timelines for qualifying as registered voters-Mary

Committee task list to Rene/Mission revisions- Candy

Next meeting available dates to Alicia-Rene/Pat

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

