

**Duxbury Seawall Committee Minutes –Thursday June 28, 2018**

TOWN CLERK

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

2018 JUL 12 AM 8:17

DUXBURY, MASS.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM in Senior Center, Weyerhauser Room.
2. The meeting minutes from 6/20/18 were approved as presented.
3. NEW BUSINESS

The members of the Seawall Committee discussed their position on the proposed Warrant Articles which included review of message points for the Selectmen highlighting the inevitable impacts to the Town if the barrier beach is breached. Repair and full replacement of the wall is not optional. The wall provides critical protection of homes, roads, and public infrastructure in the area. The Dam and Seawall Grant application, written by the Town's engineer, clearly states the importance of these points.

The point was made that the Town of Duxbury does not own any portion of the 7.5 miles of barrier beach. They lease 4 miles from the Duxbury Beach Reservation for \$750,000 per year with a projected annual increase of 50,000. The terms of the lease have changed substantially over the last 5 years. The DBR in a 2016 tax filing had \$4.7M in reserve.

Discussion also noted that the State owns the seawall and the Town is responsible to routinely assess the condition and to request funding for repairs. The 2013 Dam and Seawall Grants Program has provided surrounding local communities millions of dollars to replace seawalls and coastal infrastructure. Duxbury just submitted its first request for grant money last month and as a result has no money set aside to deal with emergency situations.

The origin of the wall and why it was built was discussed. The beach was breached from a major hurricane in the late 1930s and the wall was constructed as a result. The Town was worried that further breaching would have major negative implications to the Town because the bay would not be able to handle the inflow of ocean water. After the seawall was built, the people felt safe to invest in the 'camps' and 'squatter' homes and they were converted to more substantial dwellings and ultimately year round homes.

It was noted that a breach in wall would eventually impact Gurnet Road. This could cause infrastructure damage and raw sewage to contaminate the marsh and bay ultimately impacting the oyster farms and shell fishing. Gurnet Road also provides access for trucking heavy materials to the area including loads of sand into DBR for beach nourishment. Powder Point Bridge has weight limits that prevent using for this type of access. Beach nourishment is essential for the entire barrier beach as is ongoing wall maintenance. We are one barrier beach.

Discussion points also noted that DSWC had no input/knowledge of proposed seawall payment options until the completed product was presented at 06/07/18 meeting by Mr. Read. Committee agreed we are not in support of Town Manager recommendation to the Selectmen of Option 3: betterment (\$320) and debt exclusion (\$7.71). Renewed discussion of current tax rate for seawall area resident (3 times that of mainland Duxbury). Residents felt they essentially pay ongoing wall maintenance. Debt exclusion option 1 of \$15.42/yr was discussed and endorsed by members. DSWC agreed to compose letter to

Selectmen identifying our position and that of most area residents, and the reasons for it. Group agreed that Alicia finalize the letter to the Selectmen with the message points discussed during the meeting.

4. OLD BUSINESS

-Site visit Marshfield. Paul is meeting with Marshfield DPW tomorrow (6/29) to organize visit.

-Peer Review. There was discussion and concern that peer review is essential for wall design. There were many questions posed: Were soil borings completed as there are concerns with peat layers, Was wave modeling analysis used to define the proposed height and design of wall? The Town would be responsible for funding of peer review. This is a requirement of Massachusetts General Law for structural design. Also there were questions on revetment design. Pat Brennan will be at next meeting to field questions and concerns.

5. OPEN FORUM - No comments.

6. NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY JULY 10, 2018 at 7PM. Location to be determined.

7. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.