

Duxbury Seawall Committee Minutes 04/09/2021

Present: DSWC Members: Alicia Babcock, Paul Brogna, Steve Callahan, Arthur Haley, Candace Martin, Don Norris, Mary Shiebler. Others: Fernando Giutart BOS

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM via Zoom. Zoom preamble was read by Candy.

Open Forum: Discussion by all on communication. Communication prime objective -to assure at public meetings we are representing DSWC rather than our personal views. We, as a group, need to move toward a cooperative, working relationship with the Town. It has been difficult in past as often it appears to be the Town vs us. With additional Select board members, there is opportunity to advance our issues in positive light, using clear explanations, open communication, transparency-with goal of we are all part of the community.

Old Business: Next Phase Wall

It was noted that in scope of Towns, our remaining wall replacement is small. Duxbury has 2600 linear feet remaining-other Towns have miles. Group discussed remaining wall replacement as one big project-one and done-versus smaller sections/multiple projects. Remaining sections could be done in one season at a great dollar savings. Difficulty with larger project is funding. Discussion of Town betterments, capital plan, setting aside reserve funding for wall/beach.

Old Business: Proposed Easement

High and low water mark, changes with the day. So deeds, beach rights change all the time. Who actually owns the beach? If no one owns the beach-why are easements needed? Residents have rights but don't own the beach. The public versus private controversy continues. Public walk through rather than sit in chair in sand. Presently regulations state the public may fish at shore, walk on shore, pull up boat. Since there is no public parking in the area, actual beach sitting is very difficult for the general public. Town feels Easement is critical to obtain nourishment permits.

Woods Hole plan available to Val next Monday 4/19/21. This should address concerns regarding fencing on beach.

Action Item: Subgroup meeting on easement-Fernando, Candy, Alicia, Attorney Sullivan.

Old Business: Betterment

BOS approved proposed betterment-300 feet back from wall, excluding Gurnet Road west side. This may be used as a transferable precedent in future wall construction. Neighborhoods cannot solely supply betterment funding for supplemental wall funding or funding shortages from grants.

There was discussion of overall transparency of wall construction planning-including nourishment, wall replacement, funding. We must consider the Big picture going forward. Grants require funding be set aside annually. A Capital plan could be considered as funding alternative, as well as an override.

Action Item: Register to Vote deadline is 4/23/21. Everyone to get the word out-you can register to vote online. Annual Town Meeting is May 15, 2021.

Next Meeting: Thursday April 15, 2021 at 5:30 PM via Zoom. Agenda items to include: Official liaison form BOS to DSWC; Review nourishment/easement.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.