

Duxbury Seawall Committee Minutes – March 27, 2019

TOWN CLERK

Present: DSWC Members: Alicia Babcock, Arthur Haley, Candace Martin, Don Norris, Mary Shebler, Tim Spellman, Dimitri Theodossiou

MAR 28 AM 11:37

DUXBURY, MASS

Others Present: Ted Flynn BOS, Rene Read Town Manager, Valerie Massard Town Planner

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM in Kitchen Meeting Room at Town Hall.

The minutes of 02/27/2019 meeting were approved as presented. (5-0-1 Abstain)

1. OLD BUSINESS

TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

- 1.1 FEMA Meeting- Rene shared the results of a meeting held today between the Town and both FEMA and MEMA, in the conference room at the Duxbury Firehouse. Rene, Valerie, Ted Flynn, Peter Buttkus, and Alicia were in attendance. FEMA has approved steel sheeting as part of the mitigation program as well as raising the height of the wall by 2 feet. FEMA expressed concern related to the 150 feet of original seawall that would be sandwiched between the two, new, taller sections. They felt that this area would cause a weak link in the new structure and therefore wanted to explore the eligibility of that section to be included for funding in the mitigation plan. This would increase the length of the reimbursable replacement from 850 feet to 1000 feet. The caveat is that the approval process for this additional piece could take up to 3-4 months. If this is the case, the construction would either begin late summer/early fall, or during the following construction season; which would potentially mean another winter with only the emergency repairs as protection. The mitigation plan is for replacing the wall only. The revetment is moving through a separate approval process so that it doesn't hold up wall construction. The Town anticipates revetment approval to take a minimum of two years. If seawall construction is delayed, extension requests for Dam and Seawall Grant will be filed by Rene. This afternoon, Pat Brennan (Amory Engineering) promptly submitted all additional information requested by FEMA from this meeting.
- 1.2 There was a revetment meeting earlier this week and multiple agency approvals are required (Army Corps, CZM). It was determined that there would need to be a beach nourishment program in conjunction with building a revetment in order for revetment to be approved. Valerie reported that Duxbury is jointly working with Marshfield and the Woods Hole Group to study the entire beach in order to develop a nourishment program that would satisfy the requirements. Valerie indicated that WADs were not being considered as they have the potential to cause issues. Locating compatible sand through dredging projects is in progress as well as investigating best methods to get the sand onshore most effectively.
- 1.3 Dam&Seawall Grants 2020-Phase II. Pat will be submitting grant applications once the application window is announced. We anticipate the State to open the application in May/June.
- 1.4 Easement Letters- Final draft was presented to group by Town Manager. All seawall abutters will need to sign and return 'Certificate of Donation' to Town by 4/30/19. Then the Board of Selectmen will issue an 'Order of Taking' for the easements. One reference plan with the new easement boundary (increased to 30 feet from the seawall on the seaward side vs. previous 15 feet) will be recorded at Land Court in Plymouth County. Discussion of easement letter with DSWC included a few minor edits. DSWC and neighborhood volunteers will assist Town in assuring completion of easement letter return by April 30.

2. NEW BUSINESS

TOWN PLANNER UPDATE

2.1 Woods Hole Consultant Group to provide analysis on sand movement. CZM Grant application window is April/May. Budgeting for this coastal study is being shared by Marshfield and Duxbury. The timeline for this study is 2 years and explores all methods of attenuation and analysis of nourishment options; grain sizes of sand for replenishment with comparable material will be analyzed as part of the process. It also includes working with CZM for permitting. Permitting will run parallel with study. Beach nourishment would be the end result. Scusset Beach is scheduled first, Marshfield/Duxbury second.

2.2 MVP Grant Program for routine flooding, unrelated to wave action, is also being explored. The local match for grant outreach at Snug Harbor has already been obtained.

3. CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

There was discussion about forming a separate construction committee, comprised of engineers from DSWC and Town officials, to be part of coordinating and supervising construction of new wall. Town Manager felt that building a wall is not as involved as building a facility and therefore did not see the need for this type of assistance.

4. OPEN FORUM

There were some questions for Town Manager regarding easements, the Certificate of Donation form and the process. Possibility of Open Information Session to discuss easements with residents and Town Counsel was proposed by Town Manager.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.