



## Edgartown Dredge Committee Meeting Minutes

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting of the Dredge Committee was called to order at 4:00pm on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 via Zoom teleconference.

### **II. ROLL CALL:**

The following persons were present:

**Members:** Ed Handy, Dudley Levick, Peter Vincent, Ryan Smith

**Advisors:** Jane Varkonda

**Guests:** Julie Pringle, Michael Shalett, Tara Marden

### **III. OPEN ISSUES:**

- a) A motion was made by Peter to approve the 1/6/22 draft minutes. Dudley seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 3-0. Ryan abstains.
- b) Ed informed the Committee that dredging has been completed and the plan is to haul it on February 1<sup>st</sup>. There are some repairs that need to be done including rebuilding the pump and addressing issues with the exhaust manifold, for which parts will need to be purchased. Ed stated that the loader is in pretty good shape but needs some hydraulic hoses replaced. The crew will move the pipe back to Chappy as soon as the weather allows.
- c) Mr. Shalett asked the Committee whether there was a possibility of dredging the Great Pond before the end of the season. Ed responded that the repairs need to be completed and the budget evaluated before a decision on the Great Pond can be made. Mr. Shalett stated that this was a very disappointing response for both the GPF as well as others on island.
- d) The Committee discussed drafting a letter to Senator Cyr regarding the public funds that were awarded to the Trustees. Jane stated that the money is for "phase 2" of the dune restoration and road relocation project; the project engineer was not even aware that there was a phase 2.
- e) Ed stated that the Left Fork parking lot had flooded so he sent Greg over to protect it. He asked Jane whether the installation of snow fencing was planned. Jane responded yes, the materials have been purchased, she just needs to find the money for the labor to install.
- f) Ms. Marden joined the meeting to discuss Katama Bay and erosion issues in various locations. She said that there are many areas that could be used as nourishment locations to build up the dunes, but that needs to be addressed before they become suitable habitat areas. She suggested maintaining the width of the dunes at South Beach by adding sand behind, since it's not possible to put it on the water side. Jane responded that she is looking into a grant opportunity to address dune restoration along Atlantic Avenue. Dudley stated that he would like to see similar dune restoration efforts for the dunes at the Great Pond at the wash over location. Tara agreed but said the dunes along Atlantic Ave were more critical.
- g) Tara brought up the permit renewal process. She stated that the Army Corps is going to require updated core samples from every site on the Comprehensive permit. She said the ACOE regulations changed on January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year and the new regulations are a nightmare. Jane stated that permit renewals are at the top of her list and that she was given the name of someone to contact at the Army Corps to discuss the renewal process.
- h) Tara updated the Committee on the field data collection for Katama Bay. All gauges have been deployed, the bathymetry has been completed and they are working on the circulation model. She said the Committee needs to come to a decision about the location of the dredge footprint in the next 3-4 weeks and suggested the Committee discuss with the Shellfish

Committee, as protection of the shellfish farms is a good justification for permitting the area. Ryan added that the water temperatures in the bay are rising so if dredging can help lower the water temps that is also a benefit to the shellfish farms.

Dudley shared his idea to recreate the eel grass channels that once existed naturally; the eel grass used to grow successfully in the deeper channels throughout the bay and it would be an ecological restoration effort to try and restore those channels and promote the return of the eel grass. Tara said this kind of ecological restoration would definitely help during the permitting process and suggested contacting an eel grass specialist to offer more information. The Committee discussed involving the Shellfish Department for support; Ed and Juliet will attend the next Shellfish meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

- i) The Committee reviewed the invoices and authorized payment of the bills.
- j) Ed informed the Committee that Fuller Street Beach has received the sand donated by Mr. Gammill and asked Juliet to send him a receipt letter for 1,160 cubic yards.
- k) Mr. Shalett addressed the Committee about the Great Pond. GPF hosted an Island Ponds Community Workshop in December where the benefits of dredging the Great Pond were highlighted. Mr. Shalett said he hopes the Committee will reconsider dredging the Great Pond this year. After some back and forth between Dudley and Mr. Shalett, Mr. Shalett stated that he would like to bring in a geologist, or some other expert, to add to the discussion about whether it's beneficial to dredge the Great Pond.
- l) Ed stated that the Committee will consider dredging the Great Pond but cannot make any promises. He asked how long the last opening was. Ms. Pringle stated it was about 3 weeks. Ed commented that that would be enough time for a good exchange. Mr. Shalett stated that with a new Shellfish Constable, there may be some new ideas and that he is trying to be symbiotic, not confrontational.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:01pm.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare