



Edgartown Dredge Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3rd, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Dredge Committee was called to order at 4:00pm on Thursday, February 3rd, 2022 via Zoom teleconference.

II. ROLL CALL:

The following persons were present:

Members: Ed Handy, Dudley Levick, Peter Vincent, Rick Hamilton

Advisors: Jane Varkonda, Rob Morrison

Guests: Julie Pringle, David Faber, Tara Marden

III. OPEN ISSUES:

- a) A motion was made by Dudley to approve the 1/20/22 draft minutes. Peter seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 3-0. Rick abstains.
- b) The Committee discussed Katama Bay; Rob sent out updated maps indicating the areas where dredging would restore channels in the bay to their previous depth, which would promote circulation and encourage the return of eel grass. The dredging areas indicated would create a buffer zone between the oyster farms and the existing flats. Rob also sent a comparison photo from 1991 to show how much sand has accumulated in the area over the past few decades. The Committee thought the dredging areas indicated on the map looked great, and they would like the Woods Hole Group to pursue permitting those areas. Ed stated that because the lines drawn follow channels that previously existed, the proposed plan should not be objectionable to the regulatory agencies.
Rob further explained the color coded lines he drew on the map and the Committee discussed the depth the channels should be dredged to. Tara joined the meeting. Tara asked how wide the proposed channels would be, Dudley said perhaps 120 feet wide but he would like further input from the Shellfish Committee. Dudley said that a depth of 4 feet at MLW would be optimal for eel grass restoration. The Committee discussed the numerous benefits of dredging in Katama Bay, including improved navigation, benefits to shellfishing/aquaculture, reestablishment of biodiversity and water quality.
Tara stated that the engineers are currently running existing conditions models and they will need information on the proposed conditions in the next couple of weeks. She said the bathymetry is complete so she will start working on volumes.
Ed asked Rob if he could get the Committee a map of the area that shows the current location of all the oyster farms. He said he would have that for the next meeting, as well as a letter of support from the Shellfish Department. Tara stated that it was a great plan and will keep us moving forward; she will also run it by her contacts in the regulatory offices and try to get some preliminary feedback.
- c) Ed updated the Committee on the status of the dredge. It was moved from Eel Pond to Katama today and the crane company will be here on the 7th to haul. It survived the storm with no damage. The pipe now has to be cut and moved to its storage location at Fisherman's Depot. The Dredge will require some maintenance and the use of some of the spare parts: the pump has to be removed from the pump house and rebuilt and the ware plates and impeller need to be replaced. The crew currently has all the replacement parts on hand, but a new spare parts package will cost around \$40-\$50k.

- d) Jane informed the Committee that she spoke with the Trustees regarding the money they received from the State; they assured her that the money will be going to phase 2 of the Norton Point dune reconstruction. Tara questioned where they would be able to get sand for the next phase of work. Jane said she let them know that the Town is watching.
- e) The Committee reviewed the invoices and authorized payment of the bills.
- f) The Committee discussed the Great Pond. Ed stated that at the Shellfish Committee meeting, a comment was made by a representative from GPF that if dredging did not occur in the Great Pond this year, it could potentially set back 20 years' worth of work to restore health to the Pond. Ed stated that although the Committee has requested data on the openings from GPF, it has not received much. Ed suggested that the dredge crew should go out in the skiff to assess how much sand is in the channel near the opening. The most recent opening lasted for about 3 weeks and there was good exchange according to Paul Bagnall.
Dudley stated that he would like to see a clear, coherent understanding of the fresh water supply and a plan for the openings. The Committee then discussed the dynamic between the Great Pond Foundation and the Dredge Committee; GPF needs to work with Shellfish to determine a dredging plan for the Great Pond. Once a plan is in place, the dredge is always available to help wherever it's needed but the GPF should be relying on the Shellfish Department to request dredging in the Great Pond.
The Committee then discussed how the health of the pond is defined and what determines the success of an opening. Jane said that goals and objectives need to be established as part of a management plan. The Committee agreed that more communication with the Shellfish Department is needed to establish a dredging schedule.
- g) The Committee discussed a long-term plan for South Beach. Jane said she is working on a CZM grant for planning and permitting nourishment for South Beach.
- h) Ed will check in on the status of the new truck and report back.
- i) Juliet informed the Committee that she received the check from the Trustees for the purchase of sand.
- j) The next meeting will be on 2/17/22.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:52pm.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare