



## Edgartown Dredge Committee Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2021

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

The meeting of the Dredge Committee was called to order at 4:00pm on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via Zoom teleconference.

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

The following persons were present:

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

**Advisors:** Jane Varkonda

**Guests:** Julie Pringle (GPF), Michael Shallett (GPF)

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

- a) A motion was made by Peter to approve the 11/4/21 draft minutes. Dudley seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 4-0. Rick abstains.
- b) Ed provided the Committee with an update on the dredge: the clutch has been successfully replaced with the spare and the dredge is ready to pump again. The contract for transporting sand for the Trustees was awarded to Keene and they will start trucking sand on Monday. The Town is not ready for sand for the bathhouse relocation so the dune restoration will be the first task. Sand is currently stockpiled on the beach and ready for transport. Ed stated that, if time and weather allow, he would like to see the dredge go into the Great Pond. He would also like to provide some nourishment to Fuller Street Beach. Jane asked whether there would be any sand donated from private dredging operations, as there was last year. Ed said he had just heard that there would be so the Committee will need to discuss and vote on whether to accept that donation.
- c) The Committee discussed the 5 year Capital Plan, due tomorrow. The Committee has three purchases to include in the 5 year plan: \$150k for a new skiff in FY23, \$210k for a new front-end loader in FY24, and \$100k for a custom dredge trailer in FY25. The Committee also noted that these prices may need to be adjusted for inflation.
- d) Ed then brought the discussion back to the donation of sand from private dredging operations. The amount of sand will be approximately 2,000 cubic yards. There is enough CPC money available to truck the sand to Fuller Street Beach (Juliet will confirm the balance in the account for the next meeting).  
Motion placed on the floor by Dudley to accept the donation with the same terms as the previous year. Peter seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 5-0.
- e) The Committee reviewed a fuel invoice from Packer and authorized payment, 5-0.
- f) Mr. Shallett, President of the Great Pond Foundation, was present to discuss dredging in the Great Pond. Mr. Shallett asked what the timetable for completing the work in Katama Bay is. Ed responded that the dredge would need to be in the Bay for about 20 days to dredge the sand needed for the grant-funded projects; in addition, the Trustees have requested a small amount of additional sand for a related project outside the scope of the grant. Timing for that will depend on how much sand is available. Mr. Shallett then asked about timing for opening the pond. He stated that he was aware the dredge needs a certain depth in the pond in order to be launched; at the Shellfish meeting on Tuesday, Paul Bagnall stated he was planning to cut the pond in the next few weeks so Mr. Shallett wondered whether the dredge would still be

able to mobilize in the pond. Mr. Shallett then asked whether dredge spoils could be deposited on the eastern side of the cut to address erosion on the other side. Jane responded that the Woods Hole Group has done a survey but the permits do not currently exist. She also advised against putting sand in that area because it will immediately wash away. Peter added that South Beach is eroding at approximately 7-11 feet per year. Mr. Shallett then had some comments on the Dredge Meeting Minutes of 10/28/21. He stated that in section (d) the minutes state that it was agreed that dredging in the Great Pond needs to take place every 2-3 years. Mr. Shallett stated that the GPF does not agree with this schedule and referenced information that the GPF had sent to the Committee showing the benefits of dredging the pond. Mr. Shallett said he continues to hope that the dredge will go into the Great Pond this year, as he feels it is very important and a great benefit to the health of the pond. Mr. Shallett said that Ms. Reddington had shared information with the Shellfish Committee on Tuesday that showed a year by year analysis of salinity in the pond compared with the years it was dredged. Dudley responded that the health of the pond is a reflection of the success of the sewer plant, not a result of dredging. Mr. Shallett responded that he simply wanted to share the GPF's studies with the Committee; he is aware how Dudley feels about dredging in the pond as it was made clear at the last meeting he attended.

Dudley then responded to some of the information presented. He stated that the preferred length of time for an opening is 8-12 days; the actual length of openings are closer to 40 days, due to dredging. This only allows for 2 openings per year when it should really be 4. He also said that the GPF seems concerned only with salinity, yet there are many other factors that determine the health of the pond such as biodiversity and response to ecological stress.

Dudley would like to see, in writing, a schedule of openings. He will also put his concerns in writing and will send to Mr. Shallett. Mr. Shallett responded that he just wanted to make sure the Committee had received the information shared by Ms. Reddington, and reminded the Committee that the GPF does not schedule the pond openings, the Shellfish Department does. The Committee continued to discuss the salinity of the pond and the fresh water budget that factors into the number of openings per year.

- g) Juliet informed the Committee that the Trustees have submitted a bid for sand at the minimum advertised price of \$22 per cubic yard.

Motion placed on the floor by Peter to accept TTOR's bid for purchasing sand. Rick seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 5-0.

- h) Jane informed the Committee that the Parks Department met earlier in the day and will need sand at South Beach, she wondered how much the Committee would sell them sand for. The Committee was in agreement that there would be no charge for providing sand to another Edgartown Department. Jane stated that she is very concerned about the status of middle beach. Peter stated that the Dredge Dept should cover all expenses, such as dewatering and trucking, as long as they were within the budget and if additional funds were needed, Dredge and Parks should jointly apply for the money.
- i) Peter stated that if the Great Pond Foundation wants the dredge in the Great Pond every year, the Town will need to purchase another dredge. Jane stated that there is no one who could operate it. The Committee discussed the number of dredging days needed to complete the work in the pond. Ed stated that number of dredging days depended on how much sand needs to be moved. Mr. Shallett asked if dredging more often would equate to fewer dredging days each year. Ed responded that weather is always a factor but the permits to dredge in the Great Pond allow dredging until April 1<sup>st</sup>, which helps the cause as all other permitted areas must cease dredging on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:25pm.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare