



Town of Edgartown Fisherman's Landing Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes

November 5th, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The virtual meeting of the Fisherman's Landing Stewardship Committee (FLSC) was called to order at 10:00am on Friday, November 5th, 2021.

II. ROLL CALL:

The following persons were present:

Members: Peter Vincent, Steve Ewing, Paul Bagnall, Jane Varkonda, Ken Michel, Ed Handy

Guests: Jodi Landau, Joe Sieber, Eric Caplan, Mary Carty

III. OPEN ISSUES:

- a) The Committee reviewed the 10/15/21 draft minutes. Steve had a small modification to a comment he made about the waiting list for a mooring in the harbor: the 7 year wait list applies only the moorings in Katama Bay, moorings in the inner harbor have a 20 year waiting list.
Motion placed on the floor by Paul to approve the 10/15/21 minutes, Ken seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 6-0.
- b) Steve informed the Committee that he sent the Site Plan and the Rules & Regulations to Jake Erhard, the donor, for his feedback. Mr. Erhard had no objection to any of the proposed plans. He requested that a modest, unobtrusive sign that indicates the beginning of private property be placed on the beach. Steve said he has not been able to contact Mr. Karp, the abutter to the donated land, as he has been traveling so there is no feedback from him at this time. Steve stated that as he understands, Mr. Karp is going to push back on the 50' of frontage included in the donation as he has plans to construct multiple structures, including a pool, on his property and is concerned about the setbacks. Steve followed up by saying that Mr. Karp has a right to interject his concerns, but the decision lies with Mr. Erhard. It's possible that Mr. Karp could be granted a variance. The arrangement will be discussed and determined between the two of them. Peter stated that he wished the issues Karp is facing were clearer. Steve responded that no one has any issue with anything thus far and the Committee should proceed with the current concept.
- c) The Committee discussed the need to put an article on the 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, as well as funding that will be needed to make improvements to the site. Jane stated that there is money available in the Land Acquisition Fund, which has been used thus far.
- d) Peter then asked the guests of the meeting if there were any questions or comments. Ms. Carty stated that she sincerely hopes the town will exert any influence to maintain the whole 50' donation, and not relinquish it to Mr. Karp. The full 50' will allow for more visibility. Ms. Carty also stated that in an effort to keep the trees from growing too high, she is willing to contribute to a maintenance fund for tree trimming.
- e) The Committee discussed some logistics regarding the donation of land, including the legal language needed for the Town to accept the gift in a warrant article. Mr. Erhard will have his lawyer contact the Town for this purpose. Jane reminded the Committee that in order to engage Town counsel, the Selectboard must approve. Peter asked whether the Land

Acquisition fund could be used, Jane said she will check with the Town Administrator. Steve commented that the Committee has not provided an update to the Selectboard yet, and suggested doing so. Peter said it would be best to present to the Selectboard after everything has been finalized and when there is a warrant article to present.

- f) Ken asked about the kayak storage that was shown on the original Site Plan but not on the current draft. Jane said the term was changed to “tender storage” to encompass all boats, and the amount of storage is still to be determined. Mr. Sieber asked about the removal of the racks. Jane responded that the racks will obscure the vista and the Town asks private property owners not to install racks, so the Town shouldn’t either. Mr. Sieber was dismayed that the existing storage situation would continue. Peter stated that more storage can always be added. Mr. Sieber stated that the plan was flawed from a user standpoint. Steve responded that the parameters for storing a dinghy will be changing; previously the Harbormaster let anyone store a boat there, with the new plan, only mooring permit holders will be allowed to store dinghies. Steve also said he would like to keep the racks on the table as an option – the landing should be adaptively managed. If racks make sense in the future, they can still be added.
- g) The Committee then discussed who stores dinghies at the landing. Mr. Sieber stated that 99% of the dinghies there were connected to moorings but many do not move throughout the season, they’re dropped off in the spring but seldom used. Steve responded that managing the area is a balancing act between public vistas, storage and commercial use. He continued that he doesn’t want the area to look industrial and thinks the Committee should remain to oversee and modify as things evolve.
- h) Peter asked the Committee how they all felt about the plan. The Committee agreed that it was a good plan and should proceed. Paul commented that there are ways to work with the abutters to keep them happy and Ken agreed with Steve that the issue of the racks should be left open for further discussion.
- i) The Committee then discussed the planting of additional trees. Steve stated that he could see the neighbors point about further obstructing their view and wants to make sure their concerns are taken into consideration. No promises can be made regarding pruning or maintenance of the trees, but the Committee will continue to work with the abutters to create a plan that works for everyone.
- j) The Committee reviewed two invoices: one from the landscape architect who drafted the site plan and one from the administrator.
Motion placed on the floor by Ken to approve both invoices. Steve seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 6-0.
- k) Steve brought up the idea of providing a brochure about the Landing to the residents of Katama and those who use it. It would be a good way to inform people on the history of the area and help educate them on the use of the property. The information could be included with the mooring notices the harbormaster sends out each year. The Committee liked this idea and agreed that public outreach is always important. Mr. Sieber said he would be happy to help with this.
- l) The Committee will meet again in two weeks, on November 19th.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:40am.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare