



Town of Edgartown Fisherman's Landing Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes

July 23rd, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Fisherman's Landing Stewardship Committee (FLSC) was called to order at 10:00am on Friday, July 23rd, 2021 via Zoom teleconference.

II. ROLL CALL:

The following persons were present:

Members: Peter Vincent, Steve Ewing, Jane Varkonda, Ed Handy, Ken Michel, Tony Mignanelli

Guests: Liza Henderson (Abutter), Katie Donahue (Donor's Representative)

III. OPEN ISSUES:

- a) Steve shared an overview he put together, including some history of the site, the nature of how the Town acquired it and the charge of the Committee moving forward, including how to regulate access to the area. The goal is to clean up and amend the existing site for parking and dinghy access. The current gate situation is untenable and will have to be addressed; signage is needed to display the rules and regulations and how they are enforced. A option to have storage racks for dinghies should be discussed. Another important consideration is the protection of the Henderson property (to the right), as well as a plan, possibly implementing a vegetative buffer, for shielding the property to the north. Steve stated that this is not a bathing beach, it is access to a mooring field so the number of moorings available, and who gets to use them, should also be discussed.
- b) The Committee discussed a preliminary plot plan that was provided, but additional topography needs to be completed. Peter stated that the use of the property needs to be firmed up, and picnic tables (as someone proposed) suggest full public access.
- c) Jane stated that she has a list of the mooring users and the stickers that have been issued by the Harbormaster. She will also reach out to the Katama Association. Peter stated that if an electronic gate is installed, all users of the landing will have to register with the FLSC or the ConCom. Ken added that he has a sticker, which is a few years old, so figuring out a system for the stickers would be very useful.
- d) Tony stated that his experience at the landing at Sengecontacket is that the dinghy racks are not the issue, the lack of enforcement is. He continued that the dinghies at the Fisherman's Landing tend to get shifted and/or buried so a rack to keep them from piling up would be good.
- e) Regarding the many kayaks stored at the Fisherman's Landing, Ken said he uses a kayak to access his boat, which is why the sticker system is important. Charlie has been giving stickers out without much of a process, but said he could be a lot more restrictive if that's what the FLSC would like.
- f) Steve asked the Committee members to come up with a list of concerns or issues about the site, as well as desired improvements, and perhaps the Committee can hire someone to put together a planting plan. Jane added that the ConCom did this for another property and it was very helpful. Steve added that a list of tasks would help the Committee get a better understanding of the cost of the site work.

- g) Tony emphasized the importance and need for enforcement suggesting that maybe the Shellfish Department could assist with this.
- h) Ms. Henderson stated that she was appreciative of Steve's acknowledgement and recognition of her family and what they have been through as abutters to this landing; the road has not been easy, she said. She continued that expanding the public right of way is a great concern to her and while she appreciates improvements, she does not want the area to change. She is primarily concerned with preserving this pristine area in Katama and she would also like more monitoring of the area as she has had to serve in that role to protect her private property.
- i) Steve responded to Liza's concerns with the suggestion that the number of moorings should be limited to reduce the number of people who go there and added that once the site has been improved, and signage added, hopefully it will be more self-enforcing by the other users. Tony made a suggestion to move the road further onto the new easement area to make room for additional plantings between the public area and the Henderson's property; it would also maximize the use of the land.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:50am.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare