



Town of Edgartown Fisherman's Landing Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes

September 24th, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The on-site meeting of the Fisherman's Landing Stewardship Committee (FLSC) was called to order at 10:00am on Friday, September 24th, 2021.

II. ROLL CALL:

The following persons were present:

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

III. OPEN ISSUES:

- a) A motion was made by Ed to approve the 8/20/21 draft minutes; Steve seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 4-0, Jane abstains.
- b) A motion was made by Ken to approve the 9/10/21 draft minutes; Steve seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 4-0, Ed abstains.
- c) The Committee reviewed the proposed site plan on-site. There was discussion regarding where the turnaround area should be: one turnaround area at the location marked for "two car parking" and another turnaround area at the beach. Jane stated that cars should be kept off the beach as much as possible to minimize disturbance to the neighbors. Steve stated that the purpose of the Committee is to generate a plan and identify any needed permits, as well as provide that plan to the abutters. Peter questioned whether there was enough room at the turnaround area for cars to actually turn around, Ken responded that the road may have to be widened a bit, but with parking no longer allowed along the fence, there will be more room. Jane suggested cedars or arborvitae be planted along the fence; she also said, from a conservation standpoint, she would prefer to have the dinghies stored off the ground. The Committee then discussed the height of the dinghy racks, and how deep into the existing brush they should be placed. A rack for kayaks can be installed further from the beach because they are easier to maneuver.
- d) Steve stated that the plan will be adaptive and he would like to start simple and see where improvements can be made to the area incrementally. Steve said that currently, anyone who wants a dinghy permit is able to obtain one from the Harbormaster. The Committee discussed implementing a system where all stickers for dinghies, vehicles and moorings are numbered to match, and only allowing those with moorings to obtain stickers for dinghies and vehicles. Stickers would be offered to fishermen free of charge and shell fishermen who use the area for their operations would continue to be able to do so.
- e) Ed stated that he spoke with James Hagerty about having the police enforce the parking restrictions and James stated that it would fall under their jurisdiction. Ken suggested a summer attendant to patrol the area. Jane said a summer attendant would have to be hired through the shellfish department as conservation does not have the funds to support it. Jane also said she has had trouble with police enforcement of the area because of its obscure location. Steve stated that the Committee needs to write out a management plan. Ed asked whether approval of permits would require a town meeting vote; Jane responded that permits

would go through either the Harbor Department or Conservation. Conservation would also have to approve any new regulations (a list of regulations does already exist).

- f) The Committee then discussed the season for enforcement. It was generally agreed that public access should not be limited during the winter months, or to anyone traveling to the area on foot. An enforcement season of May 1 – November 1 was suggested, and any dinghies or vehicles left at the landing during that time could be either ticketed or towed at owner's expense. Jane stated that she and Paul Bagnall both have the authority to issue citations.
- g) Jane then asked if there would need to be any grading done to accommodate the new parking areas. Peter responded that nothing can be done to the area until the town officially accepts the land at town meeting, but there's a possibility that permits to do such work could be obtained prior to that. Jane said she would talk to Allan and the Highway Department about any assistance he can provide.
- h) The Committee then discussed the signage that would be needed for the area. Jane said she has quite a few signs in storage that could be used.
- i) Peter posed the question, what next? Ed stated that he's good with the landscape plan, he thinks now the rules and regulations need to be updated. Steve agreed and suggested a consolidation of all the documents involving the landing into a single file. Jane said she has something like that at town hall. Ed commented that it needs to be decided who will be issuing these permits, currently it's the Harbormaster. Steve stated that a sticker issued for the landing is also good for use at the other landings (Sengecontacket and Eel Pond), he feels this should change.
- j) It was decided that Jane and Steve will work on putting together a list of mooring permit holders. There was discussion regarding the seasonal moorings that the Harbormaster rents out on a short term basis, Steve estimates there are 8-12 moorings like this.
- k) The next meeting will be held virtually on October 8, 2021 at 10:00am.
- l)

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:45am.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare