



## Edgartown Dredge Committee Meeting Minutes

July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

The meeting of the Dredge Committee was called to order at 4:00pm on Thursday, July 7, 2022 via Zoom teleconference.

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

The following persons were present:

**Members:** Ed Handy, Dudley Levick, Peter Vincent

**Advisors:** Jane Varkonda

**Guests:** Michael Shalett, Chuck Fisher

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

- a) A motion to approve the 6/23/22 draft minutes was made by Peter and seconded by Dudley. No further discussion, vote taken and passed 3-0.
- b) Juliet and Jane informed the Committee that they had met with representatives from NHESP, DEP and WHG earlier that day regarding the application for dredging Lighthouse Beach and the channel. The application had received some negative comments from NHESP due to concerns about the removal of viable bird habitat, however the meeting was productive and more information on what the agencies will expect was provided. Jane said that a conservation management plan will likely be needed to satisfy Natural Heritage about the replacement of habitat elsewhere. Juliet told the Committee that the Woods Hole Group was asked by NHESP and DEP to re-do the alternatives analysis that was provided in the application because it only looked at larger scale projects, it did not analyze the benefit or detriment of doing a smaller project, which NHESP needs to review in order to approve the proposed scope of work. As additional work will require additional funds, Juliet reminded the Committee that they should be hearing back from the Seaport Economic Council in the next couple of weeks regarding the grant application that was submitted on May 1<sup>st</sup>. If the grant is awarded, the town can proceed with the application; if the grant is not awarded, the Committee will have to re-evaluate what to do next.

[Chuck Fisher, Oak Bluffs Shellfish Constable, joined the meeting.]

The Committee discussed the cost to benefit ratio of the Lighthouse Beach project. Dudley stated that a baseline for what is needed must be determined so the town can pursue that, at the very least. Ed stated that the original intent was simply to do what was needed to maintain the channel and keep the spit from encroaching but the project has evolved into something much bigger. Peter commented that as long as the project is held up in the permitting process, the spit continues to grow and may end up under the jurisdiction of the ACOE if the town is not able to act in the near future. Jane stated that if that becomes the case, Federal law will trump State law and the feds will do what they see fit, eventually. Jane suggested that we reach out to our State Reps and see if they can compel NHESP to pull back on the bird issue as the project area is only about a ¼ of an acre.

- c) The Committee welcomed Mr. Fisher back to discuss the dredging of the little bridge this season. Mr. Fisher stated that he is definitely still interested in working with the Edgartown dredge to clear up the sediment at the little bridge but he is still in the process of securing the funding. He envisions this as a phased project, phase 1 to occur this year, outside the bridge and phase 2 next year, inside the bridge. Ed stated that the crew estimated the phase 1 work

would take 5-7 days. He followed up by saying that, historically, Edgartown has always been interested in working with OB to dredge Sengecontacket as the pond is shared by both towns with a common interest to maintain its health. Ed asked if providing an estimate for 5 days of work plus mob/demob would be helpful for Mr. Fisher and he said it would. Ed said a discount of some kind for this inter-municipal agreement would be included.

- d) Ed then asked Mr. Fisher if Oak Bluffs intends to also renew their locations on Edgartown's Comprehensive permit, of which there are 3, and if so, whether OB would consider a contribution to the associated expense. Mr. Fisher said that OB would like to renew their permitted dredging sites and he would help in any way he could. Mr. Fisher will send copies of the current permits. Ed then asked if OB would be interested in selling any of the dredged sand – doing so would offset the cost of the work. Mr. Fisher said he would have to ask but that it was an option.
- e) The Committee reviewed the invoices and authorized payment of the bills. Motion placed on the floor by Peter to allow any additional FY22 bills that come in before July 15<sup>th</sup> to be approved via email. Dudley seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 3-0.
- f) Juliet has reached out multiple times regarding the post-dredge survey. Jane will speak with Kara and ask her to talk to Jordan at SB&H.
- g) Juliet informed the Committee that there will be a pre-bid meeting for the Katama Landing project on Wed. July 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am.
- h) Mr. Shalett asked about whether Edgartown would be interested in the sand dredged from the little bridge and whether that could be a way to reduce the price tag for OB. Jane said she can always use sand and is still looking for a way to stockpile for emergency events. Ed said it was a good option to keep in mind.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare