



Edgartown Dredge Committee Meeting Minutes

August 11th, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Dredge Committee was called to order at 4:00pm on Thursday, August 11, 2022 via Zoom teleconference.

II. ROLL CALL:

The following persons were present:

Members: Ed Handy, Ryan Smith, Dudley Levick, Mike Shalett

Advisors: Jane Varkonda, Rob Morrison

Other: Emily Reddington, Julie Pringle, Martha Cohan, Bob Goodman, Dan Morrison

III. OPEN ISSUES:

- a) The Committee asked Rob to update them on the grant application process for restoring the Herring Creek. Rob stated that he and Juliet had been working on gathering information to include in the application but had come to realize that the minimum amount that could be applied for under this federal grant opportunity was \$1million. Due to the tight timeframe, and the need to justify a request for \$1 million, he decided not to submit an application for this round of funding. However, the information gathering thus far has been very productive and has gotten the conversation going. Rob received a quote from Wilkinson Ecological for a three year plan to clear the phragmites from Herring Creek and will use what he's learned to get the ball rolling on this. He continued that, although he will not be submitting the application, this is still a good opportunity to discuss the subject in a public meeting with some of the stakeholders.
- b) Ed stated that the Dredge Department did previously dredge the Herring Creek (around 2010) with a long-arm excavator, and it was pretty successful. It was a quick and inexpensive process with the excavator and a dump truck. Jane stated that a chemical application is needed, a simple mechanical excavation will not be successful long-term; she said the rhizomes must be removed, which can only be done with an herbicide. She suggested speaking with Emma Green-Beach who has lots of experience dealing with phragmites.
- c) Juliet asked Jane about the permitting process for this work. Jane said an NOI from the ConCom and a Chapter 91 permit would both be needed, a Water Quality Cert would likely be needed and an ACOE permit might be needed.
- d) Ms. Cohan stated that the Herring Creek Farm Association did a similar phragmites removal at the Farm and it was very successful. She said that Wilkinson had done the work and had also guided them through the permitting process.
- e) Ms. Reddington asked what the overall goal was for doing this work. Rob stated that he was interested in restoring the herring population in Crackatuxet, removing barriers for migrating fish and improving water flow. Ms. Reddington asked about the health of the water and whether improving water quality so the fish can survive was also a goal. Ms. Pringle added that there is low oxygen at the bottom of Crackatuxet Pond due to a canopy of plants; herring eggs require oxygen. Also, improving the flow between the Great Pond and Crackatuxet would increase the salinity and herring prefer lower salinity while spawning. The group discussed the relationship between the Great Pond and Crackatuxet as it pertains to salinity – the two areas have a direct correlation. Dudley stated that he has concerns about feeding the Herring Creek with water from the Great Pond and how that would affect the fresh water

budget. Rob responded that that needs to be a larger discussion that would also tie into the schedule of openings. The group then discussed the purpose of the Sluiceway, which was installed in 2003 by the ACOE to address the height of the pond during winter, when cutting it is not an option.

f) Dan Morrison stated that his family has lived on Crackatuxet for over 60 years and he is delighted with the attention and public involvement it is currently receiving. Rob responded that he will continue to work on gathering information and making strides to improve Crackatuxet and the Herring Creek and he looks forward to working with the stakeholders and abutters towards that goal.

g) Juliet updated the Committee on the Katama Landing bids, of which three were received. The low bid of \$1,460,708 was submitted by Robert B. Our, Co (RBO). The Town has appropriated \$295,000 for the work, the State has agreed to cover the balance. Ed stated that he spoke with Doug Cameron (OFBA) regarding the possibility of Change Orders. Mr. Cameron said that the Town would be responsible for 25% of any change order. Mr. Cameron also said he has worked with RBO previously and they have completed projects without any change orders. Ed told the Committee that James Hagerty made it clear to him that the Dredge Committee will be responsible for covering the cost of any change orders. The Committee discussed options for how to fund a potential change order, including potentially shortening the dredge season if funds from the operating budget need to be used. Mr. Shalett stated that it would be a shame to shorten the season. Ed responded that this project has been six years in the making and needs to get done now, before costs go up even more.

Juliet informed the Committee that she had just received an estimate from Foth Engineering for construction and permit close-out services; the amount is just under \$40k. The Committee will review the proposal and take action at the next meeting.

Motion placed on the floor by Dudley to recommend to the Selectboard that they approve the contract award, in conjunction with the State, to RBO in the amount stated above. Ryan seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 4-0. Juliet will draft a letter from the Committee to the Selectboard and will attend Monday's Selectboard meeting should they have any questions.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare