



## Edgartown Marine Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

The meeting of the Marine Advisory Committee was called to order at 3:00pm on Wednesday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via Zoom teleconference.

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

The following persons were present:

**Members:** Ed Handy, Bruce McIntosh, Martin "Skip" Tomassian

**Guests:** Bill Roman (EYC)

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

#### DREDGE REPORT:

Ed informed the Committee that the Dredge finished up in Katama and all sand for the TTOR and Parks Department projects has been dewatered and trucked to the project locations. The project owners will be responsible for the final grading. The Dredge has been relocated to Eel Pond, where it will finish out the season pumping nourishment sand to Fuller Street Beach.

#### FISHERMAN'S LANDING REPORT:

The Fisherman's Landing Committee was on the agenda for Monday's Selectboard meeting but still had not received the paperwork and warrant article language back from the lawyers, so the presentation to the Selectboard was postponed. The landscape plan and proposed Rules & Regulations have not been changed since last discussed.

Bruce stated that the draft Rules and Regulations state that the general public is not allowed to use the landing and questioned whether that was legal on town-owned land. Ed responded that public access has always been limited at the Landing, nothing has changed except enforcement. Bruce said he was concerned that the wording seemed to deny public access, for example it says, "No recreational activities", and he strongly opposes denying public access and thinks people should be able to walk down and enjoy the view. Ed stated that the limited public access was one of the conditions stipulated by the original land donor and the new donor would like to leave those in place. Skip added that this is a situation where a benevolent land donor is giving land for a specific purpose – to provide beach access to fishermen, which is inclusive of a variety of activities. Ed followed up by stating that in order to park a vehicle at the Landing, one would need to have a sticker but anyone can launch their boat and then park elsewhere. Bruce commented that the sign, which states no loitering, sunbathing, swimming, etc. makes it sound like the average person cannot use the area. Skip responded that because the gift of land is coming with certain strings attached, it's a take-it or leave-it situation and the Town does not have a choice. Ed stated again that the rules are not changing.

#### EDGARTOWN YACHT CLUB SEAWALL REPAIRS:

Bill Roman, Club Manager for the Edgartown Yacht Club, was present to discuss seawall repairs to the stretch of seawall between the finger piers and the Seafood Shanty. Bill reported that the poured concrete wall has deteriorated badly over the years despite the efforts made by the Yacht Club to maintain it. Bill said he went to the Conservation Commission a few years back to get permission to replace the wall, but the ConCom wanted it replaced with a granite wall. Even with a contribution

from CPC funds for the added cost of granite, it was still cost prohibitive. Bill tried to piggyback the seawall project with the major renovation of the Yacht Club, since there was a contractor already mobilized who could do the work, but there was not enough funding available. Then, Bill was introduced to Mark Nicotera of Trademark Services, who proposed using a material called "Ready Rock" which is an assembly of pre-cast concrete building blocks that resemble stone. Although Bill has not gotten a price for this application yet, it is certain to be more affordable than granite. Also, because it stacks with interlocking blocks, it can be added to over the years to address rising sea levels. Bill stated that he had spoken with both Jane Varkonda and James Hagerty and both thought it was an idea worth looking into further. Bill said in addition to repairing or replacing the seawall, they would also be looking at re-doing the brick walkway but need to consider whether it can be raised also, which would require some kind of transition down to the finger piers.

Skip asked Bill if he had any photographs of the Ready Rock being used elsewhere. Bill said he sent a brochure to Ed, and the material has the ability to hold up to salt water. Skip asked if there was anywhere the Committee could go and look at it already installed. Bill said he would talk to Mark about other places he has installed it.

The Committee discussed other details of replacing the wall, such as whether the town has considered continuing the wall all the way to the Yacht Club, across the existing parking lot.

Ed asked if any grant opportunities had been explored, and that collaboration with the Town on the project would possibly make the Yacht Club eligible to receive grant funding.

Bill stated that he still has \$120,000 in CPC money.

Ed asked about the time frame for the work. Bill stated that he would like to get it done as quickly as possible and wondered whether it could even be completed this spring. He said the club has been on the hook for a lot of repairs due to washouts, and the undermining of the bricks is getting worse, making it potentially dangerous.

Bruce stated that he would like to learn more about the Ready Rock product but that it sounded really good in theory. He also said he would hate to see the brick walkway repaired without being raised and that any height that could be added would be beneficial.

Ed asked the other two Committee members whether it was safe to say that the MAC would be supportive of this proposed work and would assist in any way possible, Skip and Bruce agreed.

Bill told the Committee that Andrew Nilson, the engineer and project manager for the raising of the Yacht Club was interested in working on this as well.

Ed stated that he would speak with James about partnering for grant opportunities and would also circulate the brochure that Bill sent him. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Ed asked if any engineering work had been completed for this. Bill stated that he has plans for stone work, but any plans for the Ready Rock would probably be fairly equivalent. He will send the plans he has to the Committee.

#### HARBORSIDE INN UPDATE:

No update at this time, still waiting on an Engineer. Skip questioned why no progress has been made on this. Ed responded that DEP will not take any action until an engineer presents plans and the Harborside is dragging their feet. Ed stated that perhaps the Harborside needs to be nudged on the matter.

#### HARBOR PLAN UPDATE:

Ed said he was hoping that James Hagerty would be present to discuss this but was unable to attend. The issue with the State is that the Marine Advisory Committee is not broad enough representation to update the Harbor Plan, the State wants a larger Committee to work on this. The Committee discussed the previous attempt to update the plan, which was rejected by the State due to some formatting issues and missing items. The proposed solution was to have the MVC take over drafting the plan and to collaborate with the State to ensure proper formatting. Ultimately, the goal of updating the plan was

to facilitate the process to apply for and receive public funding but it was never approved due to critical issues, like climate change, not being adequately addressed.

Skip asked who was behind making the update of the plan happen. Ed said that Steve McKenna from CZM had reached out to James to encourage the update. He's hoping that the MVC can consolidate all of its climate change data and incorporate that into the Harbor Plan. Ed suggested further discussion of this at the next meeting, when James is hopefully able to attend.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Bruce informed the Committee that Representative Dylan Fernandez has introduced legislation that would modify the laws of waterfront property ownership to include "recreation" as an acceptable activity for public access to the intertidal zone. Bruce stated that he supports the idea as it increases public access. Skip stated that he has a collection of scholarly reports and writings on this issue and will send out to the Committee for review. He also stated that he did not support the change.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare