



Edgartown Dredge Committee Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Dredge Committee was called to order at 4:00pm on Thursday, September 14th, 2023 via Zoom teleconference.

II. ROLL CALL:

The following persons were present:

Members: Ed Handy, Peter Vincent, Dudley Levick, Ryan Smith, Michael Shalett

Advisors: Jane Varkonda, Kara Shemeth

Guests: Joel Kubick

III. OPEN ISSUES:

- a) The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the 8/31/23 meeting.
Motion placed on the floor by Dudley to approve the 8/31/23 draft minutes. Mike seconds the motion, no further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously (3-0-2).
Ryan and Peter abstain.
- b) Regarding the FY24 dredging season, Ed reported that Oak Bluffs is no longer interested in having the Little Bridge dredged, leaving the season open for Edgartown projects. Dredging will still happen at the Gut and at the Narrows, per the request of the Shellfish Committee. After that, Ed suggested dredging in Eel Pond for nourishment material for Fuller Street Beach. The Committee agreed.
- c) Ed also reported that Tisbury has requested dredging services for 2024-2025.
- d) The Committee discussed Fuller Street Beach's status as suitable nesting habitat. There was some confusion as to whether it was designated as such because NHESP said it did not qualify as a mitigation area for the Lighthouse Beach sand, which is why the town engaged with Sheriff's Meadow Foundation to place sand on Little Beach. Jane stated that if Fuller Street Beach is not suitable nesting habitat, the town should be able to place sand there after the January 15 permit deadline. The advantage of doing so is that the town can place sand on the beach after the winter storm season has passed, ensuring the sand stays on the beach and does not get washed away. Joel Kubick clarified to the Committee that NHESP still considers Fuller Street Beach as habitat, it just didn't qualify as a mitigation area. Jane will still pursue the option to place sand on the beach after the permit deadline. The Committee discussed potential locations to store sand.
- e) The Committee discussed the difficulties of the dredge permitting process. Ed stated that Nantucket is in desperate need of sand and due to the complexity of dredge permitting, they are being forced to barge sand over at a cost of \$90 per cubic yard. Nantucket officials have sent a letter to State Representatives to try and make sand acquisition easier. Ed continued that this is the type of action the Committee should be engaging in regarding dredging permits. The Committee discussed a letter to state representatives and what should be included. Juliet will draft a letter and bring it to the Committee for review and comment. Once the letter is drafted, the Committee will ask the Selectboard and other relevant town departments to also sign.

- f) The Committee discussed dredging in Cape Pogue and where the sand will be placed. Jane indicated that abutters to the Gut would be receptive to sand being placed on the beaches that provide access to their properties. Jane and Ed will do a site visit to assess the areas that are most in need.
- g) The Committee reviewed the invoices and authorized payment of the bills.
- h) Juliet will submit a public notice for the disposal of the old dredge truck as soon as the Selectboard declares it as surplus property.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46pm.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare