

**Town of Edgartown
Selectboard
January 17, 2024
11:00 am**

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in the Fred B. Morgan, Jr. Meeting Room of Town Hall. Members present were: Chairman Arthur Smadbeck and Margaret E. Serpa. Also present was the Town Administrator James Hagerty.

Also present were:

The Parks Commission: Andrew Kelley, Glen Searle and Jane Varkonda who opened their meeting.

Parks, Cemetery and Highway Assistant Jess McGroarty; Shellfish Constable Rob Morrison; Highway Superintendent Allan deBettencourt; Highway Foreman James Maseda; Tara Marden and Joel Kubick from The Woods Hole Group; Conservation Assistant Kara Shemeth, Dredge Chair Ed Handy; Facilities Manager Juliet Mulinare, Police Chief McNamee; Fire Chief Schaeffer; Town Accountant Amy Tierney; Eve Cinquino from WHOI and Conor Laffey from DCR.

At 11:00 am Mr. Smadbeck opened the meeting and recognized Mr. Hagerty.

Mr. Hagerty stated that this was a special meeting to discuss the storm damage at South Beach and Norton Point from the recent winter weather. His intention was to get everyone in one room to discuss any immediate and long term action and how to move forward. He asked the Parks Commission to speak first.

Mr. Kelley stated that on the weather events of December 18, 2023 and January 10, 2024 the South Shore, but specifically for this discussion, South Beach and Norton Point lost significant shoreline and dunes. They are trying to put together realistic goals and plan some strategic sand nourishment placement. The main thought at this time is to shore up left fork right now. This will protect Norton Point and the access to houses on Navy Way and Edgartown Bay Road. They have some permits now for some work. They are discussing removal of the bath house. They have to determine short term, what's feasible now, and long term goals. Nourishment depends on sand supply and dredging. What work is within the permits they have now and what will take longer.

Ms. Mulinare stated that the Dredge year ends on January 15th due to permit restrictions on winter flounder habitat. They have filed a restriction waiver request with DEP. She's unsure what sand is available.

Ms. Varkonda stated that DEP called this morning and that she and Juliet would call them back this afternoon.

Mr. Kelley stated that there is some sand stored.

Mr. Handy stated that the current plan was to go into the Great Pond to dredge sand to right fork, but there is a lack of beach to drive the trucks on for transport. They may be able to pipe it to Right Fork, but then it will have to be trucked to Left Fork.

Mr. Hagerty then asked Mr. Morrison to report.

Mr. Morrison stated that both ends of Herring Creek will need to be cleared. They both have significant blockage with sand.

Mr. deBettencourt reported that he has evaluated the Atlantic Drive Area. There were two main areas of immediate concern. Area 1 was the drainage pit where the pedestrian bridge goes to the Winnetu neighborhood. Estimates to fix it in house, including 178 cy of fill and approximately 15t of asphalt would be \$5,300. Area 2 which is the Right Fork Culvert area is going to need an engineer. There are 2 culvert pipes which are 50% and 75% blocked respectively. He has reached out to the state about some engineering assistance. The roadway is fully undermined and not safe. It has been blocked off.

Ms. Varkonda stated that the Conservation Commission can issue any needed emergency permits. Dredge will really need the extension to get sand. Nourishment has to be done by April.

Ms. Marten agreed that left fork was a priority. It protects Atlantic Drive, Katama Road and the Herring Creek. Flow in the Herring Creek is important. There's been an incredible change in all of South Beach. There needs to be a long term project to nourish all the dunes. They are desperate for sand. She has been working with the Town for a couple of years on permitting for Katama Bay. That would be about 300,000 cy.

Mr. Hagerty asked the Dredge Department for their thoughts.

Mr. Handy stated that they will do whatever they can to assist. They're done with the Chappy project. The dredge is in the water ready for instruction.

Chief Schaeffer stated that he has been in contact with MEMA. David Woodbury has committed to visit. There is no immediate funding available at this time. They've started collecting data to declare an emergency to FEMA. He has the packets for departments to fill out. They are due by January 23rd. It may mean future funding or reimbursement.

Mr. Hagerty encouraged everyone applicable to get the packet from the Chief and fill it out. He then asked the Selectboard to declare an Emergency in the South Beach area.

Ms. Serpa moved to declare a local emergency in the South Beach section of Edgartown due to the weather events of December 18th and January 10th. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Kelley then brought up the Donnelly Shack which is the base for the lifeguards in the summer. It also houses scientific equipment that belongs to WHOI. It will most likely need to be taken down, if not taken by the ocean first. There will need to be a temporary solution for the coming summer.

Ms. Cinquino stated that all the WHOI equipment has been removed. The only thing left is the mast which they had a hard time getting permission to remove because of the dune, but now that the dune is gone, there should be no problems.

Mr. Hagerty told them to contact the Katama Airport about relocation.

Mr. Smadbeck then asked if there were any questions.

Ms. Martha Cohan from the Herring Creek Farm area asked if there were any plans for beach nourishment in Cracktuxet Cove along the beach.

Ms. Marten responded that WHG had been working with the homeowners association there, but there was the presence of the Tiger Beetle which has stopped everything for now. They have been working on a plan with National Heritage. She suggested that Mr. Laffey from DCR could perhaps encourage some people from the State to come check out the situation. She said there are resiliency grants available from CZM and other sources, but that they take time.

Mr. Laffey stated that he had been trying. He suggested that town reach out to DCR directly.

Mr. Hagerty clarified that South Beach is owned by the State and Norton Point is owned by the County. Both are managed by the Town. The Value of Edgartown's South Shore to the Island is immense. It is the biggest public beach on the island. He offered Ms. Cohan the MEMA packet for homeowners.

Chief Schaeffer suggested announcing it to the public for anyone else that would like to apply as a homeowner.

Mr. Hagerty stated that it seems they have a good grasp on triage and short term for this year. They will need to discuss long term project goals.

At 11:47 am Ms. Serpa moved to adjourn. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. The Board did a rollcall vote and all voted Aye. Unanimous

Approved:

Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman

Michael J. Donaroma

Margaret E. Serpa
Selectboard

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose
Administrative Assistant