

Town of Edgartown
Cape Pogue DCPC

Minutes of Meeting
June 29, 2023 5:00 P.M.

In Attendance (virtual):

Town Administrator (James Hagerty)
The Trustees of Reservations Membership (Bob Hayman)
The Trustees of Reservations Staff (Russ Hopping, sitting in for Darci Schofield)
Cape Pogue Property Owner appointed by the Edgartown Board of Selectmen (Rachel Self)
Massachusetts Environmental Police (Matthew Bass)
Edgartown Board of Health (Chris Edwards)
Edgartown Shellfish Constable (Rob Morrison)
Edgartown Marine Advisory Committee (Ed Handy)

Meeting called to order.

Water Issues

Harbormaster Update re: Gut Signage

Rob Morrison indicated there had not been heavy boat traffic recently; he had been speaking with the Harbormaster on all his trips out. Data continued to be logged. Bob Hayman inquired about anchorage bouys. Rob Morrison reported that he had not seen any new anchorage bouys, and would talk to the Harbormaster about whether there would be any updates to signage.

Update from Edgartown Police and Harbormaster regarding enforcement

Sgt. Ruly had reported to Rachel Self that the police boat was in the water; they were looking at scheduling patrols within the next week. In any case, they were always ready to back up the Harbormaster if necessary. Lt. Bass had not heard of any problems so far this year.

Request for input on any regulations we may want to revisit in the Cape Pogue DCPC

Rachel Self requested that members submit input on changes to language they might like to see to the existing DCPC and regulations; because there was no quorum at this meeting, the matter was not officially opened for discussion, but she encouraged submission of suggestions or ideas by the next meeting. The process for approving any changes would be lengthy but this would be helpful in beginning the process.

Russ Hopping spoke in favor of creating a process for granting exceptions to the total ban on pesticides, for instance.

Rachel Self also recommended looking back to the original legislation and other documents creating the DCPC, in order to keep in mind the intent behind the Committee and its creation, and allow that to inform thinking about any changes the Committee might like to suggest going forward. Balancing all of the interests contemplated and valued by these original documents would be a worthwhile undertaking in

deciding what kind of changes would be worth making to the DCPC. The Committee could consider what suggestions could be made in December, looking to ensure that it does not deal with the same problems every year, and to ensure that the current regulations are more effectively enforced than they have been in the past.

Land Issues

Beach updates

Rachel Self was curious about a dead whale that had been anchored on the beach, and what the considerations were in deciding whether to anchor the whale, tow it out to sea, let it wash away, etc. Ed Handy indicated that they are normally towed out to sea.

Dyke Bridge

Rachel Self reported there was now a vehicle counter on the Dyke Bridge, replacing the one that had previously been damaged. Sand had been placed over the exposed rebar by the town. James Hagerty reported that he, town counsel, and TTOR counsel had arranged to walk the bridge; their trip was canceled by weather, but they hoped to reschedule soon.

Dredging

Rachel Self reported that at a recent BMP working group meeting, the issue of road repair and dredging had been raised. The low road area in the narrows was a point of concern. TTOR had indicated they were interested in how to get dredge spoils. Ed Handy said that dredge spoils were available to any government agency that wanted them; if someone wanted to put them on private property, the appropriate permits needed to be obtained and then bids could be placed. The price of moving the spoils from site to site could get expensive. The matter had not been officially set for discussion or a vote by the Committee, but it was an issue that should be discussed when more members were present.

The next meeting was scheduled for July 27 at 5:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned.