



## Edgartown Dredge Committee Meeting Minutes

August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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

The meeting of the Dredge Committee was called to order at 4:00pm on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via Zoom teleconference.

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

The following persons were present:

**Members:** Ed Handy, Dudley Levick, Rick Hamilton, Ryan Smith, Peter Vincent

**Advisors:** Paul Bagnall

**Guests:** Emily Reddington (Exec. Director, GPF), Michael Shalett (President, GPF)

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

- a) Motion placed on the floor by Ryan to approve the 8/13/20 draft minutes. Dudley seconds, no discussion, vote taken and approved 4-0. Peter abstains.
- b) Peter stated that he had reviewed the Tashmoo contract, in lieu of town counsel, per the Selectmen's request, and said it looks fine; he wants to make sure the grain size of the dredged sand is compatible with the nourishment location. The Committee is waiting to hear back from John Crocker and Jane to confirm this.
- c) The Committee welcomed Ms. Reddington and Mr. Shalett from the Great Pond Foundation. Mr. Bagnall was also present to confirm that the Shellfish Committee absolutely still wants Great Pond dredged this winter. Mr. Bagnall stated that shoaling inside the pond has grown to be extreme. Ryan added that the pond is so full of sand, boaters are not able to make it to the cut. Ms. Reddington stated that she has compiled large amounts of data that demonstrate the benefits of dredging the pond; she said there is a huge measureable difference when the pond is dredged.
- d) Dudley stated that he would like to see information presented on the desired lengths of the openings, including the number of days and the salt levels; he further stated that dredging in the Great Pond needs more examination. He referenced a report by Arthur Gaines that describes the desired length of openings to achieve maximum salinity. Ms. Reddington responded that the report being referenced is from data collected in the 1980s and 90s, and the data collected by the GPF is current and local. She stated that the number of days the pond is open is not as important as the exchange in salt/fresh water that occurs.
- e) Mr. Bagnall referenced a report by Bill Wilcox from 2002 that compares salinity profiles before and after dredging; without dredging the salinity profile is low, around 8-18 parts per thousand. However, after dredging the profile is higher, around 18-28 ‰. Mr. Bagnall stated that salinity is used as a baseline for the health of the pond, which is important because it promotes the health of eel grass, which allows other species, like herring and shellfish, to thrive. Ms. Reddington added that dredging reduces nitrogen and increases circulation. With shorter openings, as Dudley suggested as more

- beneficial, Ms. Reddington says the salt water does not reach the far ends of the pond, so the exchange does not occur.
- f) Mr. Shalett, the President of the GPF Board, spoke in favor of the dredging program in the Great Pond. He said for the past 10-15 years, the GPF has dredging the pond using private funding. Over that time, the health of the pond has improved dramatically; it has been removed from the State's impaired list, and the eel grass is back. Mr. Shalett said the question now, is whether or not the Town of Edgartown wants to continue dredging or return the pond to its impaired status. He said the burden of responsibility for maintenance of the pond falls to the Town.
  - g) Motion placed on the floor by Peter to dredge the Great Pond this winter, Ryan seconds. No further discussion, vote taken and approved, 4-1; Dudley opposes.
  - h) Ms. Reddington thanked the Committee and offered one more item for discussion. She said that the GPF recognizes these are challenging times and that the Dredge Dept did not receive funding they were expecting for this dredging season. As a one-time-only offering, the GPF will contribute 50% of the mobilization/demobilization costs for dredging the Great Pond. The Committee thanked Ms. Reddington and Mr. Shalett for the generous contribution.
  - i) Peter asked Ms. Reddington if the permits were secured to drive down the beach. Ms. Reddington stated that everything is good to go for this season.
  - j) The Committee asked for an update on the Lighthouse Beach project. Ed said he would reach out to Tara for more information.
  - k) Juliet stated that one application had been received for the Dredge Crew; applications are accepted until 9/2/2020.
  - l) Ed informed the Committee that the equipment is looking good; Greg is spending a few hours repairing the brakes for the truck.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:25pm.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare