



Edgartown Dredge Committee Meeting Minutes

July 18th, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Dredge Committee was called to order at 4:00pm on Thursday, July 18th, 2019 at the Town Hall.

II. ROLL CALL:

The following persons were present:

Members: Ed Handy, Dudley Levick, Rick Hamilton, Ryan Smith

Guests: Bob Whritenour, Liz Durkee (OB Selectmen's Office, ConCom), Vincent Sabatini, Adam Brown, (Katama Association, abutters to Katama Landing), Ellen Kaplan (Counsel)

III. OPEN ISSUES:

- a) Motion placed on the floor by Ryan to approve the 6/27/19 draft minutes; Rick seconds, no discussion, vote taken, approved 4-0.
- b) The Committee welcomed OB Town Administrator Bob Whritenour and OB Conservation Agent Liz Durkee. Mr. Whritenour informed the Committee that the Town of Oak Bluffs is interested in purchasing dredge spoils to nourish the beach in the North Bluff area. The Town will be permitted to nourish below MHW in an effort to build up the beach; they are looking for approximately 16,500 CY of Sengecontactet sand, per their permit. Ed stated that the Committee was already considering going into Senge to pump sand to nearby Bend in the Road beach, as well as offer any surplus spoils for sale to the public. The other option the Committee is considering is dredging in the Great Pond and trucking the sand back to Fuller St. beach. Ed asked Ms. Durkee whether Oak Bluffs would be able to accept sand from the Great Pond, instead of from Senge. Ms. Durkee said she wasn't sure but she would find out.
- c) The Committee discussed the parameters of an agreement between the two Towns: the sale of the sand would be governed by an inter-municipal agreement at a price per CY, and Oak Bluffs would be responsible for transporting the sand to the desired location through a separate agreement with a trucking company.
- d) Motion placed on the floor by Dudley to continue negotiations with the Town of Oak Bluffs to sell them sand. Rick seconds, no discussion, vote taken, approved 4-0.
- e) Mr. Whritenour asked the Committee if they had an estimate of what the price per CY would be. Ed stated that it's been offered for \$20/CY in the past for dewatered sand. The offer this time would not be for dewatered sand, so the price would probably drop to around \$15/CY. Mr. Whritenour and Ms. Durkee thanked the Committee and departed the meeting.
- f) The Committee welcomed Mr. Vincent Sabatini, member of the Katama Association, present to discuss the expansion of the Katama boat ramp. He informed the Committee that Charlie Blair had come to speak with the Association a few weeks back about the

expansion project at the ramp and they were all taken by surprise as this had never been brought to their attention, as neighbors to the ramp. He informed the Committee that the Katama Association took a vote and voted unanimously not to support the project. Mr. Sabatini said he was concerned about the scope of the new ramp. He recognized that the project has been talked about for a long time, but said he hoped it was not too late to take another look at the project. He offered a description of the current ramp by explaining that, "if you know where the road is, you know it's a small ¼ mile road that leads straight to the landing", which he stated was a small, sandy ramp used basically for families until someone came in and formalized it, pouring concrete and putting in a float. He said the oystermen now use it often but that it has "always been a passive ramp for families". He went on to say that the plan to expand the ramp to 90 feet long by 40 feet wide will entirely change the character of the ramp. Ed clarified that the ramp will not be built to 40 feet wide, but rather increased to 24 feet wide from its current width of 12 feet. Mr. Sabatini continued on that he's not opposed to dredging in general, but that if he read the dredge minutes correctly, this will only save the Town \$25K per year [the cost of the crane used to mob/demob]. Mr. Sabatini said the ramp will become a draw to all the island towns and its expansion will create a commercial ramp that people from all over the island will come to use. He also cited concerns about the overflow parking on Edgartown Bay Road. Ed informed him that the number of parking spaces would not be increasing. Mr. Sabatini countered that the island in the parking lot will be removed, to which Ed replied, yes it would, to accommodate larger trailers. To which Mr. Sabatini responded, "Exactly". After Mr. Sabatini informed the Committee that he "wants to keep an open mind", Ed asked what it was that the Dredge Committee could do to help him. Mr. Sabatini said he's not opposed to fixing the ramp, the way it is, and for the Town to continue spending the \$25K each year to launch and haul the dredge by crane. And he would like to put the entire project on hold so other solutions can be looked at.

- g) Adam Brown, abutter to the landing and member of the Katama Association, introduced himself. Mr. Brown, an attorney from New Jersey, has been an abutter to the ramp for 43 years. He stated that his concern over the new ramp was "not about the fishermen or those launching small whalers, but that the ramp was increasing in size by 500% to 30' by 90' feet long". [The existing ramp is 50' long]. Mr. Brown said that based on past minutes of the Dredge Committee, the expansion of the ramp was to allow for other Town equipment to be launched there as well as to benefit island residents; Mr. Brown questioned what other Town equipment this was referring to. He then suggested that the use of Fuller Street beach for a ramp/launch would anger the neighbors in that area. He claimed that the expansion of the Katama ramp would "industrialize the ramp for the whole island". He also stated that the Town has no jurisdiction over the ramp, because it's owned by the State, so if a commercial boat hauler came to use the ramp, the Town would not be able to prevent it. Mr. Brown also opposed what he referred to as "the removal of vegetation in the area"; the fact that the sand around the landing would be covered with concrete; and the "60' extension into a shell fishing area. He stated that, "Not every problem can be solved by engineering." He also informed the Committee that he had hired an environmental consultant to check the validity of the Town's application for the expansion to the State. In conclusion, Mr. Brown stated that he was not making a legal argument; he sees this as a neighborly issue.
- h) Ellen Kaplan, legal counsel for Mr. Brown, then stood up and introduced herself to the Committee. She reminded the Committee that the ConCom continued the public hearing for the NOI to allow all agencies the opportunity to review the information. Ms. Kaplan

stated that the Town had purchased the new dredge two years ago and that the \$25K used to crane the dredge in and out of the water each year “was a drop in the bucket for this program’s budget”. She then went on to list the comments made by DEP [which are publicly available] in response to the application, arriving at the conclusion that those comments showed that the project is “not cost-effective and has no real purpose”. Ms. Kaplan went on to reiterate that the new ramp would be a commercial ramp in a residential neighborhood.

- i) Mr. Brown then added that there was never any consideration to leave the ramp as-is; the only two options for the project were to expand or do nothing.
- j) Ed responded to the comments of Mr. Sabatini, Mr. Brown and Ms. Kaplan by asking if everyone was ok with improving the ramp to allow for facilitated launching. Mr. Brown said they were not opposed to that.
- k) Mr. Sabatini, Mr. Brown and Ms. Kaplan then exited the meeting.
- l) The Committee asked Juliet to put together a timeline of all the public notices and public comment periods for the project so far.
- m) Ed asked the Committee for their feedback on the information that was just presented to them and questioned whether it should impact that timeline of the project. The Committee was in agreement that the project should continue to move forward as it has been. The Katama Association has requested to be on the agenda for the next Board of Selectmen meeting, so the Dredge Committee will submit their recommendation to the BOS to continue moving the project forward. Ed stated, “This is a public ramp providing public access to public waters”.
- n) The Committee briefly discussed the price for sand that should be offered to Oak Bluffs for consideration. This will be revisited when OB determines whether Great Pond sand can be utilized for nourishment at the North Bluff

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare