Town of Wareham

Marine Resources Commission

Meeting date: July 13, 2016

Attendees: Larry Bearse, Warren Hall Jr., Don Jepson, Jim Smith, Dick Wheeler

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM

The meeting notes for the June meeting were read and approved.

Warren Hall brought forward the subject of the town utilizing the Plymouth County dredge as an alternative to having the Army Corps of Engineers dredge the Wareham Harbor channel. Discussion centered around the fact that Wareham's Harbormaster had looked into collaborating and participating when the County was soliciting towns to join together to purchase a dredge. Recollection was that Garry Buckminster determined that Wareham would not obtain sufficient use to justify the cost of participating in the purchase. Garry was not in attendance at the MRC meeting so we were unable to pursue any details regarding the the decision not to participate. Discussion was then held regarding the fact that dredging requires that the US Army Corps of Engineers be involved in the permitting process as well as a number of Massachusetts regulatory agencies. The Wareham River channel and the Onset Bay channel are Federal Navigation Project waterways. The question was raised again by members as to whether the selectmen had acknowledged or taken any action regarding the suggestions contained within the Wareham River dredging advisory letter that was sent them by the Marine Resources Commission in March. The members voiced their frustration that no acknowledgment that advice contained the letter was considered, or feedback that contact the Army Corps of Engineers has been contacted.

No updates on projects currently in process by the harbormaster were not provided as Garry Buckminster was not in attendance

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

I attest these are the true MRC minutes of the meeting held July 13, 2016.

Donald H. Jepson, Chairman

Please cc: Board of Selectmen, Harbormaster Office.