

Town of Wareham

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Marine Resources Commission

Meeting date: October 4, 2017

Attendees: Larry Bearse, Dick Wheeler, Don Jepson, Garry Buckminster, Mary McKenzie, MRC Liaison Alan Slavin.

The meeting opened at 7:00 P.M. In Room 228 in the Multi-Services Building.

The minutes for the September 13th Marine Resources Commission Special Meeting were reviewed and approved.

The first item on the agenda, was review of the front page dredging article that appeared in the Wareham Courier. All in attendance agreed that it was very well researched article and Chairman Jepson complimented reporter/author, Mary McKenzie and MRC member Larry Bearse for a job well done. Mary contacted USACOE to obtain input and Larry provided information to Mary and was quoted in the article. The article stressed that applying to the USACOE to do dredging is very competitive and that the Town needs to get behind the application and support it. The article also pointed out that if the dredging application is approved by the USACOE they will only dredge the Wareham Channel, and it would be beneficial for the Town to piggy back on that effort if they wish to have dredging done outside the channel. It was mentioned in the article that there is benefit to the taxpayers to invest at the time when the USACOE is dredging because there is economies to be had at that time because the dredging equipment is on site and the subcontractors can pass along the inherent savings for dredging and disposal costs. The article indicated that the local businesses and taxpayers have a lot to lose if they do not rally behind the effort to gain approval of the USACOE dredging application.

The second agenda item was the Harbormaster's update on progress made towards completing the information requested by the USACOE. Garry indicated he had completed the information he was requested to provide and he is going to turn over the application to Town Planner, Ken Buckland, to complete the other information requested by USACOE. We all recognize that there is a significant amount of information requested, and Ken's Masters in Marine Affairs should be of benefit in lieu of the Selectmen's decision not to hire a consultant.

Chairman Jepson inserted a new agenda item regarding hurricane prep. He indicated that he was out of the country when Wareham was buffeted by the remnants of tropical storm Jose. He indicated he'd monitored the Harbormaster's website but found no information as to whether he should arrange to have his boat pulled. He pointed out that there are a significant number of summer residents who he assumes monitored the website for the same reason. Garry pointed out that he does not order anyone to pull their boats. It is a personal decision. Chairman Jepson mentioned that he was told that there is significant activity at the Tempest Knob boat ramp during previous hurricane warnings. Garry volunteered that they monitor the situation and boat owners are given an hour maximum to get there boat hauled. Discussion followed about whether the Town should create a designated area where boats could be temporarily stored once they have been hauled because of an approaching storm. Garry indicated that in Marion during Hurricane Bob a number of boats were damaged because they

toppled like dominos because they were located next to the harbor where the wind was full force. Garry has indicated in the the past that boat owners have been told to take their boats to their homes or a secured area. Some of those boat owners have waterfront property which offers little protection during a storm and are subject to storm surge flooding.

Chairman Jepson pointed out that he read in Wareham Week that the Town Administrator suggested that a beach maintenance group be formed to be led by Town officials. This task force force is to be in charge of upkeep, which could receive grants for beach maintenance. Chairman Jepson cautioned that the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency is very much opposed to building breakwaters and bringing in sand. He also indicated that he'd heard from Philip Patrick, who has waterfront property in Standish Shores, that across from him they brought in 100 trucks of sand after Hurricane Bob, and some of that sand has migrated towards the Wareham River Channel. Garry volunteered that he has observed the migration and that it has not filled in the channel very much, but has migrated next to it.

Chairman Jepson cited an article in the Cape Cod Times about steps that Wellfleet has taken to prevent a repeat of the nono-virus outbreak what shut down their oyster beds last year. Garry indicated that that was an isolated incident and that Marine Fisheries shut down the beds in Wareham and elsewhere for a different reason, a rare toxic algae bloom. Based on Garry's input, it was deemed that no further discussion was necessary on this subject.

Chairman Jepson then moved onto the agenda item about forming a shellfish advisory committee. He read out loud an e-mail that had been sent to him by MRC liaison Alan Slavin at 6:26 P.M. on the evening of our last MRC Meeting on September 13th. Chairman Jepson indicated he does not carry a cell phone that has access to internet so he did not receive this message in time for the last MRC meeting. Just as he completed mentioning the e-mail message to the members, Alan Slavin joined the meeting. In the e-mail Alan Slavin wrote that he'd noticed the agenda for the September 13th meeting talks about forming a shellfish committee. Alan indicated it had been discontinued years ago because the former harbormaster was easily able to handle the shellfish issues. He advised that if the MRC members brought this to the the Board of Selectmen, it will not pass muster. Alan corroborated that what was in his e-mail was correct so no further discussion was held regarding forming a shellfish advisory committee. Dick Wheeler added that he'd spoken with Linda Burke and suggested we get together with her Beach and Tourism Committee to consider having an information table at the Wareham Oyster Festival.

At the close of the meeting Garry Buckminster again suggested that the Marine Resources Commission should look to have a re-do of the Harbor Management Plan. Larry Bearse and Chairman Jepson indicated that the present streamlined Harbor Management Plan was a significant savings to the town and that all the previous versions had been retained. Chairman Jepson indicated he gave the only surviving hard copy of 1996 approved Harbor Management Plan to Ken Buckland because it had a lot of verbage Ken might use in producing the Master Plan he was working on. Garry opined that Ken confided that he thought a larger version of the Harbor Management Plan might help in securing dredging from the US Army Corps of Engineers. Garry indicated that Ken thought some of the keys identified in the streamlined Harbor Management Plan were not correct. Chairman Jepson indicated that he would contact Ken regarding that matter. The Marine Resources Commission adapted a streamlined version of the HMP because the previous version was cumbersome and not utilized by the Harbormaster to run his department. All present acknowledged that the previous Harbor Management Plan format was antiquated in that it was outdated the day it was published. The streamlined version

provides links and contact information that a user can refer to to get up to date information. Garry previously acknowledged that he did not refer to the Harbor Management Plan to run his department. He uses the Waterways Bylaws. Garry later sent a link to Chairman Jepson indicating that Plymouth and Provincetown are utilizing Umass Boston's Urban Harbors Institute to update their Harbor Management Plan. The link is: <HTTPS://umb.edu/uhi> .

Subsequent to the above meeting, an article appeared in the New Bedford Standard Times on October 25th (See Attachment) that indicated that the Town of Marion is utilizing the Umass Boston's Urban Harbors Institute to help update their Harbor Management Plan. The effort is being led by Marion's Town Planner. Funding is provided by a Massachusetts Seaport Economic Grant the Town applied for and received. The process of updating Marion's Harbor Management Plan is expected to be completed in 12-18 months.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P. M.

I attest these are the true minutes of the MRC meeting held October 4th, 2017.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donald H. Jepson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Donald H. Jepson, Chairman

cc: Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, DNR Office