

Meeting Date:
September 25, 2023

**Wellfleet Dredging Task Force (DTF) Committee
Minutes of Meeting**

September 25, 2023 – 7:00 pm

Meeting held via Zoom conference call

DTF Present: Co-Chair Joe Aberdale, Co-Chair Chris Allgeier, Charles Annett.

Others Present (DTF Committee Participants): Will Sullivan.

Others: Diane Brunt.

1. Announcements, Open Session, and Public Comments – None.
2. Administrative.
 - 2.1. Roll call was taken to confirm attendees.
 - 2.2. Approval of Minutes of Meeting, from the August 7, 2023, meeting.
 - 2.2.1.1. A motion to accept the Minutes was made by Charles and seconded by Chris.
 - 2.2.1.2. The motion was approved by a vote of 2-0, with 1 abstention.
3. Update on permit activity and the Mitigation Plan.
 - 3.1. At the last Selectboard meeting, the Selectboard voted not to proceed any further at this time with the Mitigation Plan with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
4. Dredging Plans.
 - 4.1. No dredging in 2023.
 - 4.2. There needs to be additional funding requests, presumably at spring meeting for various items such as the mitigation fee, additional funds to complete the dredging, and variations thereto.
 - 4.3. In the next few months, it will be necessary to put together a schedule for the events to support whichever measure of funding gets approved.; e.g., when to re-issue the bid package and the make-up of the bid package.
5. Miscellaneous
 - 5.1. Diane noted after the Selectboard voted the mitigation plan down, she had pushed for doing 1/3 of the dredging in 2023 by simply pro-rating the mitigation fee. However, USACE advised that a (revised) permit application would have to be resubmitted to show the details of a “1/3 Plan”.
 - 5.2. A brief discussion ensued about a 1/3 plan vs. a 1/2 plan; the bid package will have to be structured accordingly, consistent with whatever level of funding gets approved at spring meeting.
 - 5.3. Diane stated her opinion that we should submit a revised permit application sooner rather than later, for whatever plan we intend to pursue.
 - 5.4. Diane also stated her opinion that the permit application should be for a ½ plan with a lower mitigation fee rather than the full 23.8 acres with the higher mitigation fee. Diane stated the permit application should be submitted soon while the

mitigation fee is still \$ 4.48 (million) because if we wait until spring it probably won't be \$4.48; we'll be in a totally different ballpark. Diane further suggested that updates be provided at all BOS meetings.

- 5.5. Chris suggested we should see if we can get a permit for the entire area with a bifurcated payment schedule. Although this has been previously requested, DTF will pursue it again.
 - 5.6. Joe said the application for the permit that was submitted for dredging this fall was for roughly ½ the area. Chris noted that the permit application was for the full area; the bid package was for roughly ½ (the volume). Splitting the permit application into 2 pieces runs the risk of falling into new/additional requirements to get the second-year permit.
 - 5.7. Joe noted that the state had approved a permit for the entire mooring field and therefore that would be Joe's expectation of the Army Corps.
 - 5.8. Discussion ensued about the cost of doing ½ of the mooring field in 2024 which will inform how much funding to request at spring meeting.
 - 5.9. Joe stated that the Selectboard needs to indicate what course they wish to follow. If the town accepts a plan for paying the mitigation plan, perhaps the Selectboard could notify the USACE and attempt to have USACE keep the mitigation fee locked in at \$4.4 million.
 - 5.10. Chris reminded that the actual mitigation fee is not USACE but is MA ILF. Nonetheless, we can pursue such discussions with USACE and MA ILF.
 - 5.11. Follow-up on these issues would be coordinated through Rich Waldo.
 - 5.12. Diane suggested we could possibly raise sufficient funds for a partial dredging effort in 2024 perhaps from raising commercial shellfish fees and/or a donation from SPAT.
 - 5.13. Discussions with USACE will be coordinated through Rich Waldo.
6. Plans to reduce sedimentation rate and future maintenance dredging.
 - 6.1. This item is "off in the future".
7. Sand/shoaling area at the breakwater- Engineering drawings and permit applications.
 - 7.1. BSC Group has done the mapping. The federal channel is holding up quite well and maintaining the prescribed depth. However, the shoaling is building up on the side of the channel.
 - 7.2. BSC has two options for review to manage the quantity in conjunction with the required permits for each of the options.
8. Next Meeting – it was agreed the next DTF meeting will be held on Monday October 23, 2023, at 7:00 pm.
 - 8.1. Diane asked if the DTF would consider meeting in person or perhaps as a hybrid meeting. Chris said DTF would consult with town administration.
 - 8.2. Joe noted that as Chair of the Marina Committee a while back they had looked at that and Joe talked with the IT guy about it. What he said was, somebody has to show up a good ½ hour earlier to help with the camera angles and set up all the furniture and then stay to break it down after the meeting is over.
 - 8.3. Chris posed a rhetorical question: would there really be a benefit to offset the added cost?
 - 8.4. DTF will pose the question to Town Administration and (equally important) see if any DTF members are interested in attending in person.

9. Motion to Adjourn – a motion to adjourn was made by Joe and seconded by Charles.
The motion to adjourn was approved, 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:26 pm.