



Fairhaven Marine Resources Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2024

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2024 APR 24 AM9:14

Present: Chair Michael McNamara, Vice-Chair Andrew Jones, David Hebert, Robert Pink, Robert Hobson, and Harbormaster Timothy Cox.

Absent: Select Board member Keith Silvia, Michelle Potter

The meeting was videotaped by Cable Access and Zoom meeting application.

Mr. McNamara opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes from February 1, 2024:

Motion: Mr. Jones motioned to approve minutes. Mr. Pink seconded. Vote (5-0-2)

West Island Dredging information – Foth Engineering:

Susan Nilson and Paul Marsala from Foth Engineering presented an update to the proposed dredging of West Island. Mr. Marsala went through the scope of the work including research, locations and suitability of where to relocate dredged material. He also advised the time schedule of events of the project and that actual dredging would most likely happen in 2026. The area of Goulart Memorial Drive was discussed along with the waiver that those private home owners would have to sign in order to have the beaches there nourished with the dredged material. Discussion ensued regarding private vs public right of way regulations. Mr. Pink brought up an additional area of Long Island to the tip of West Island that is very low which Foth will look into. Discussion ensued between residents and the committee regarding the public easement and what that would mean.

Harbor Dredging Updates:

Mr. Cox gave a brief update on the dredging at Union Wharf. The north side and the lobster basin is scheduled to be dredged starting June 14, 2024. When the lobster basin is being dredged the boats will not have access and will need to be relocated, roughly from June 14th to June 24th. Tim is working on other locations they can dock. Dredging has been completed North of Union Wharf and Pease Park boat ramp will be reopened Monday afternoon. All dredging is scheduled to be completed by July.

Quahog Senior permit fees:

The committee recently raised the age of a senior shellfish button from 62 to 65. Discussion ensued regarding implementing a small fee for seniors to cover the cost of the button permit. No changes is recommended by the board.

Motion: Mr. Jones motioned to make no changes. Mr. Pink seconded. Vote (4-1-2)

Review Select Board Fee decision/impact:

Mr. McNamara presented a slide show comparing Fairhaven's raised fee's in comparison to surrounding towns showing Fairhaven is now higher than surrounding towns. The Select Board raised all fees recommended by the Town Administrator and Mr. Cox. Mr. Pink suggested that the increase fees along

with the shellfish closure issues could greatly impact our revenue negatively. Mr. Cox is also concerned about the sewerage treatment plants impact on shellfish but is expecting the inner harbor to stay in the open status. Mr. McNamara pointed out that the committee's recommendations were not considered by the Select Board and feels the work done by the committee is not appreciated. Discussion ensued regarding this.

Shellfish updates:

Blue Stream is currently proposing to install a Flubsy in Jack's Cove which is planned to go before the Select Board on April 8, 2024. Discussion ensued regarding the location and appearance of the Flubsy. Tim advised the relay will be in Round Cove this year, planting 600 bushels. Tim explained the sewerage discharge from New Bedford and the impact it is having in our waters. Dale Leaviitt gave a brief overview of this process and discussion ensued regarding the daily outfall that is maybe not diluted correctly. North Cove will be reopened and Round Cove will be closed in May.

Harbormaster updates:

Union Wharf is making progress on drilling and once complete, a final scheduled will be available. Seaview Boat Ramp is getting a new dock installed by the state which will be completed by May 30, 2024. The sand at Hoppy's Landing's ramp will be addressed and the lot will be graded by the BPW.

Any other business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the posting of this meeting:
none

Next meeting will be April 4, 2024 at 6:30 pm. If any unforeseen circumstance comes up prior, an earlier meeting will be scheduled.

Motion: Mr. Pink motioned to adjourn. Mr. Jones seconded. Vote (5-0-2)

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Sharon Mills
Recording Secretary