



The Town of Fenwick Island

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DREDGING COMMITTEE AUGUST 13, 2018 AT 1:30 PM

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Bernie Merritt, Gardner Bunting, Vicki Carmean, Alex Daly, Charlie Hastings, Bud Tingle, Bill Weistling

Absent:

Karin Lakin, Mark Tingle

Also in Attendance:

Wayne Carmean, Gene Langan, Pat Schuchman, Terry Tieman,

From DNREC: Beth Chapman, Sierra David, Stacey Diehl, Jessie Haymond, Rusty Kimmel, Ashley Norton, Mike Powell, Chuck Williams

Bernie called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Vicki, seconded by Bill, to accept the June 15, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Chuck Williams from DNREC presented the dredging options for channel dredging. Proposed Option #1 is identified as the green area on the southern end of the channel. The total length is 1,850 feet with a channel width of 60 feet and a depth of 4 feet and a total of 7,400 cubic yards of material to be dredged. The estimated cost is between \$170,000 - \$180,000.

Proposed Option #2 is identified as the purple area also on the southern end of the channel. The total length is 2,370 feet with a channel width of 60 feet and a depth of 4 feet and a total of 5,260 cubic yards of material to be dredged. The estimated cost is between \$125,000 - \$135,000.

There were two suggestions for the placement of the dredging materials: either on Seal Island or the wetlands along the southern channel, which is owned by Joe Balsamo. If Seal Island is to be used for the dredge material, rip-rap would need to be installed to hold the material in.

There has been no area identified on the north end of the channel as of yet for possible dredging. Mr. Williams said he will have more suggestions for possible dredging areas at the next meeting.

Bill asked DNREC if they would be interested in completing the dredging of the north or south channel. Terry added that a partnership with the Town and DNREC, as well as the County, could be formed to do the dredging project and split the cost. Mr. Williams stated that this would be unusual since DNREC has never partnered with a town before.

Although Seal Island would be more costly to rebuild, it still may be a better option for the material. Gardner commented that in the past there was a Shoreline Erosion Program to help prevent wave action damage to the shoreline. Mr. Powell noted there may be funding available for shoreline erosion and he will look into it.

Vicki suggested that Seal Island could be made into a bird sanctuary and possibly the project could receive environmental funding. Mr. Powell responded that if Seal Island was built back up, it would become a bird sanctuary again like it was in the past.

Charlie questioned what is done when a wetland is restored. Mr. Powell responded that when the wetland area was restored at Pepper Creek, the dredge material built up the marsh lands and the project was a success. Charlie noted that the south end wetlands near Route 54 need to be restored due to erosion.

Terry asked what the next steps should be. Bernie also questioned what should be done after the cost is provided to us on the north channel. Mr. Williams responded that the Town should hire a consultant to lay the project out and Mr. Powell also added that DNREC should be included in any discussions with the project engineer. Bernie commented that the Town needs to work with the State and County to get funding and possibly apply for grants.

Bernie asked if dredging spoils cannot be placed in a close place and they have to go somewhere else if the cost of the project would go up. Mr. Williams answered yes, if the material has to be hauled away, but the spoils could also go onto private property close by but would require a permit from the Army Corps. of Engineers, DNREC Wetlands and Subaqueous Lands Section, and the Delaware Coastal Programs.

Mr. Williams commented that it would be better to submit a dual project to the State for both the southern and northern channels. Bernie noted that the hydraulic study on the channel was done on the southern end but the study has not been completed on the northern end of the channel.

Charlie asked if the State would approve rip-rap around Seal Island, and Mr. Powell responded that he would consult with DNREC Wetlands Division.

Gardner suggested two other locations that could possibly be used for the dredge material: the Freeman property or Cedar Island.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled after the study is completed on the north channel.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Charlie, seconded by Gardner, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.