



The Town of Fenwick Island

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DREDGING COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 27, 2019 AT 1:00 PM

MINUTES

In Attendance

Bernie Merritt, Gardner Bunting, Vicki Carmean, Charlie Hastings, Karin Lakin, Terry Tieman, Bud Tingle, Mark Tingle, Bill Weistling

Also in Attendance

Tony Pratt

Absent

Alex Daly

Bernie called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Vicki, seconded by Charlie, to accept the minutes from the March 8, 2019 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Bernie noted that since the last Dredging Committee Meeting, progress has been made. Tony Pratt is now on-board with the project, and recently an engineering contract was signed with Anchor QEA. A meeting will be set up with the Freeman Foundation soon to discuss the dredge material.

Vicki questioned if the cost to dredge has been determined. Bernie replied that he doesn't know the final cost yet. Vicki then asked if Freeman would be willing to help with expenses since they are receiving the free dredge material. Bernie replied that Freeman is already saving the Town money by taking the dredge material. Tony added that the Town is saving a lot of hassle by finding a property to take the dredge material to.

Vicki asked if there is any way to know if dredging will be successful once it is done. Tony replied that after the dredging takes place, an angle survey will be done and repeated once a year that will measure the channel and determine the rate and location of any material that has filled in. Bernie commented that the Town does not want to do dredging every 5 years. Tony responded that there is a possibility of doing an advance dredging which is a flat cut. In his experience, after advance dredging is done, the area does not fill completely back in. Tony did however recommend a plan be developed for dredging maintenance.

A pre-project survey is needed prior to dredging. Tony will contact Chuck Williams at DNREC to see if they can complete the survey.

If a homeowner wants additional dredging work near their property, Tony recommended 2 options:

- Contractor talks directly to property owner, or;
- Incorporate into our contract that additional work will be negotiated with the Town and contractor.

Tony suggested that we do not get too close to the docks due to possible damage to the homeowner's property. Charlie commented that it should be the homeowner's responsibility.

For dredging, Tony stated that the center of the channel will be established, then a dredge with a small capacity will pump both sides of the Bay to remove the material. The material will consist mostly of sand, with the only contaminant being salt. A berm will be created at the Freeman site to contain the material. Bill commented that Freeman has stated that they do not want berms. Tony will talk to Freeman on the reason for the berms. Bernie added that once Freeman gets the material, it is theirs.

Bernie commented that the timeline to complete dredging will be in the 1st quarter of 2020, before the season starts.

Bill noted that Freeman is locked into the 12,000 cubic yards of material but questioned what would happen if there is more than the 12,000 cubic yards. Bernie replied that John at Freeman said that the property next door to the site could be used if needed.

Karin asked about the funding for the project. Terry responded that the Town has \$90,000 in reserves but will also look at a low-interest loan once the total project cost is known. Charlie suggested contacting Representative Gray for assistance. Terry will contact both Representative Gray and Senator Hocker once the dredging contract with the proposed cost is received.

Bill asked once the project is put out for bid if there will be any problems. Tony replied not that he knows of since there are six experienced dredging contractors available.

Bernie questioned the total time to complete the dredging. Tony responded around 2 weeks.

Bethany Hooper from The Dispatch asked how much has been spent so far on dredging. Bernie replied around \$80,000.

Bill questioned who will do the work on the Freeman property. Tony replied that he will work out the details with Freeman.

Vicki suggested that the Town needs a list of questions prior to the contract being signed.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Charlie, seconded by Gardner, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 1:36 PM.