

DPW Commissioner Meeting
Wednesday, April 24, 2013, 7:00 pm
Rockport Police Station – Community Room

A meeting of the DPW Commissioners was held in the Community Room at the Police Station on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 7pm with three commissioners and the DPW Director.

- 7:00 Approval Items: Commissioner Sena moved to accept the minutes of the 3/27/13 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reed, Vote: 3-0.
- 7:05 Open Session – Open for public discussion with the Commissioners
Eric Hutchins, Applectart Road, spoke about the article in the Gloucester Times after Town Meeting regarding the Long Beach leases, he stated that the article made is sound as though the town wanted to give 30 year leases on Long Beach; all it was an option. He stated if you didn't attend town meeting, it would appear that the 30 year leases would be preferred.
- 7:10 New Business
Beach Street Storm Flooding: Anne and John Franco, 56 and 54 Beach Street in attendance. J. Franco stated that they've had storm related issues in the past, but the last two winters they've had flooding issues. They believe this is due to the reconstruction of the seawall on Beach Street. There is water on the sidewalk during a storm; it has changed significantly over time. J. Parisi said it's the same revetment, but that prior to the reconstruction the surface was rougher, the contractor sloped it. Director Parisi doesn't know why there would be a change. He said that the membrane is different than it was before; the membrane might slow it down a little bit.
- 58 Beach Street, Stephanie Rauseo, stated she has been there for 51 years, the surface is too smooth; it's like a slide for the waves. She recommends it needs to be rough to break the waves. Perhaps turning those stones over so they're rough would be an improvement.
- J. Parisi said we'd have to see if FEMA would contribute their 75% towards a remedy, then the town would pay for 25%.
- J. Franco said we need function over beauty. He said regarding the sidewalk on Beach Street, those stones are 2.5 to 3', maybe they need to come up to 3.5 or 4'. Perhaps take the sidewalk away from the ocean side, maybe change Beach Street to one way. Regarding drainage, The manholes on the ocean side, we can extend them to the opposite side of the street. Everyone on the street needs to change their grade to help with drainage. There's too much water, too fast, it just keeps coming over. There's no reprieve. Hadn't even thought of the membrane, maybe it's slowing the water going down and out. If everyone works together, if we have a plan there's a lot we can do. The road is crowned now, perhaps slope it toward the ocean side. Maybe some type of bladder on the exit drain so it can flow one way or a trap door. He stated we can't keep the water from the house.

Chairman Gardner stated the concerns are 1) spending public dollars to benefit specific private homeowners. If there was something about the water that was damaging the road, where changing it clearly benefited the general public or reducing erosion, that's one thing, 2) some of these possible solutions may not be effective.

John Franco, the seawall is not high enough, currently it's 1.5 or 2', maybe it should be 3.5'.

D. Greel, DPW, said he believed if the wall was higher, the ocean waves would go higher and further into your yard.

Eric Hutchins, Applecart Road, said other towns are drawing the line and saying this has got to stay. We may have to say some areas aren't worth it, but Beach Street isn't one of them. We need to start thinking about climate resiliency. This thing is one year old, a brand new job is already damaged and causing problems.

Director Parisi said the company keeps coming out, working on it. We're looking at it to see what can be done to repair it.

John Franco said he understands the issue of spending town money for four private homes. He stated that these homes are summer homes, they don't have kids in the schools. He commented that they pay their tax bills too. He concluded by saying they don't use anything other than the roads, the view, and the water.

Chairman Gardner said the argument is about redoing the revetment, putting a hard surface on it. There needs to be a clear public interest and it's going to be expensive. He said he noticed that the waves weren't breaking prior to the revetment and hitting the revetment, they were rolling up and breaking there. The tide was extraordinarily high the day he observed it.

Anne Franco said during a storm, the road is not passable. Town employees will just have to continue spending time cleaning it up.

John Franco said the debris is going to happen, but now you can't fight the battle with this. He inquired if there is any chance of getting the Army Corp of Engineers to build a water screen with big pieces of granite.

Commissioner Sena said changing it the way they'd like to would create more problems for the homeowners. He said the Franco's driveway would be 14" higher than it is now. If curbing was put in there, the water would be channeled over there. The water is still going to keep coming down their driveway. This could be over \$280,000 to fix this and could take 5-8 years with appropriation then town meeting; to reconstruct the road, move the sidewalk, re-pitch the road, and change the manholes.

Commissioner Reed said we need to come up with some ideas and check with engineers. Redesigning the wall, we're getting into some interesting Conservation Commission territory if we reconstruct everything down there. We need to look at all the alternatives.

Director Parisi said conversations with FEMA should take place around mitigation funding. The work wasn't deficient, but was the design deficient, he questioned. It was designed by Vine. Could adding more stones in a random fashion, and raising the sidewalk help. Maybe some small improvements, a bladder at the outfall would be inexpensive and we could do it.

J. Franco said when they were building tube, he was uncomfortable with it then. No wonder he has 18" of water in my house. He said this makes no sense. Why would you take the chance when everyone is talking about sea level rise. He said he wasn't asked to pay for a portion of it to make it better and he would have.

Chairman Gardner said we need to look at the revetment design and see why it failed. Are there things we can do with regard to a change of design that would make the revetment stronger and less likely to fail and less likely to cause water to go over. The drain issue and what do we need to do to prevent a back-up.

Eric Hutchins, Applecart Road, recommending talking to Vine or someone, the breakwater is deteriorating. The Army Corp has the original design, they've probably done consecutive inspections; we should see what that picture tells us.

Stephanie Rauseo said the wall didn't collapse in front of her house, the water still came down the driveway – it has never done this before. She thinks it was the wall design.

Anne Franco said it doesn't take any energy out of the water, it acts like a ramp.

Chairman Gardner said perhaps putting a breakwater at the point because the waves seem to be funneling in there. A small breakwater might take energy out of those waves. Look at the design of the revetment and understand the failure and how to prevent the failing. Are there aspects of a rebuild or things we can do to reduce the amount of water that's getting over. Make sure it's not cost and time prohibitive.

Director Parisi said we're already in conversation with Vine; we'll get back in touch with them.

David Rauseo questioned what was the cost to do it the first time.

Director Parisi said approximately \$227,000 was the original cost.

6 Great Hill Lane Sewer Connection Request – J. Parisi said there have been sewer failures there; the property is across from the police station. J. Parisi is recommending letting these connections happen, there isn't a public sewer extension. Need a pump station at the low point and gravity piping to sewer this area entirely. There are two houses that we know about at the moment. All costs would be private, but because there isn't sewer in front of their homes, J. Parisi said he brought it here tonight to check with the board regarding capacity. On-site grinder pump will be a private cost as well.

Eric Hutchins, Applecart Road, said about 10 years ago, the wastewater committee worked on the SEA report. Over 18 months and the meetings that were held; Hodgkins Street was one of the hot topic issues. He said that report is still valid.

8:10 Ongoing Business

Blizzard of 2013 Storm Damage Review: Director Parisi said they're getting ready for the summer season, cleanup from storm and clean up the cemeteries. J. Parisi distributed the updated "February Blizzard Damage Repairs". Still waiting to hear what the FEMA funds will be.

Capital Project Scheduling: J. Parisi distributed an updated spreadsheet to track the projects. Having the project management software will allow the commissioners to review this periodically. Chairman Gardner said just managing the nearly 100 projects is a job in itself; the spreadsheet doesn't provide the depth of information that is needed.

Sediment Transport Study: J. Parisi distributed the bid document. Chairman Gardner questioned if the number of groups bidding on this should be expanded; there are three now. Chairman Gardner questioned a possible conflict with Vine, given that they are the group that has already worked on the seawall. The ranking committee will recommend the best proposal given whoever bids. Chairman Gardner questioned who is on the ranking committee; Tim Olson, Joe Parisi, Gary LeBlanc, Don Greel, and one Commissioner. Commissioner Sena offered to be on the ranking committee. It was questioned if Commissioner Sena being on the ranking committee would be a conflict. Commissioner Sena said that he has been told that until it involves money for him, it's not a conflict. It's a town decision. Commissioner Sena is in the field professionally; that's why he has offered to be on the committee.

Chairman Gardner said that Mike Hughes from the Finance Committee is concerned about computer modeling. He is worried that people will say "the computer model says this about the beach 50 years from now", the vendor will have to tell us how they've validated their modeling.

Ward Talbot, Long Beach, commented about modeling and beach management and beach engineering studies, in New Jersey particularly. He said New Jersey's version of MEMA is funding the management plan, they expect that it will take 5 years. The head of the Emergency management in New Jersey says they can't predict success or failure because they don't have the science to do it. But they're still doing it, it's still a 5-year, multi-million dollar project.

Chairman Gardner said that the modeling needs to tell us if the beach is capable of replenishing itself, if it loses a lot of sand, and to what extent.

Eric Hutchins, Applecart Road, said this will be a difficult model to validate. This is where the proposal will fill us in. It's not just the beach it's the three parameters, what's the viability of this area with the combination of movement of sand, storm surge, sea level rise, and increased storm velocity.

Chairman Gardner said it's going to tell us all of that. He stated that it is looking at the front and back of the beach. It will tell us how the beach has changed; we should get a better picture of what has happened to the beach overtime; how well does it replenish itself. Is it coming back on or moving off; is beach replenishment going to be successful.

Commissioner Sena he believes that the statement "beach nourishment" is the incorrect way of looking at it. We're looking at what the beach has done, what it's doing now, and what it will do.

Eric Hutchins, Applecart Road, recommended asking the consultants for suggested long term locations that could be established so the town could maintain a database of measurements and keep track maybe four times a year over the years. This could be done inexpensively.

Director Parisi questioned if the title of the study should be the Long Beach Long Term Viability Study rather than a Sediment Study.

Chairman Gardner said we need to know what has happened to the beach over the last 50 years, what's happening with it now, and what is going to happen in the future. He recommended changing the scope of services to reflect some of the things discussed tonight.

Sewer Capacity Priority Connections, Director Parisi said that SEA has been given the task of performing the sewer capacity assessment. They have all our GIS information, they are working on the build-out on properties within the sewer district based on the zoning by-laws, how many parcels can one parcel be and designate capacity. They will build a model that says you need to reserve this much capacity; then how about adding bedrooms, etc. All of that has to be put into a map and spreadsheet. Then looking at the treatment plant to understand the flows and if there are any deficiencies that need to be resolved. In heavy flows, there's too much discharge. This will create another tracking challenge. J. Parisi, said it will be the end of May, at the earliest, before we are able to sit down and look at something. It will be June before it comes back before the DPW Commissioners.

Eric Hutchings, Applecart Road, said he has worked with SEA previously. He is offering to review the work SEA is doing; because he spent months working on the last one.

Commissioner Reed commented on the Tool Company property, he questioned about the 17 new residences, with boats. He stated that 26 boats would almost be like summer homes (pleasure boats), another 26 bathrooms pumping into the system. That property could be much more than the 17 residences. He recommends that the Commissioners learn more about this.

Water Needs Assessment Draft RFP: Chairman Gardner said this needs to be a realistic potential build-out for the town. He questioned if the Planning Board has any realistic build-out projection for the town. Director Parisi said a parcel by parcel plan with the new GIS data is what is needed. Director Parisi distributed an updated "Background and Scope of Services". Chairman Gardner said this should be reviewed to ensure that everything is in there.

9:20 Other Issues of Discussion

Project Management Software: T. Olson distributed a summary document comparing some available products. They are cloud based and would need internet access. Users would have a username and password before entering the system.

Chairman Gardner asked if the GIS software provider has been contacted to see if there is one that interfaces with a project management product. He stated that the goal is to enter information only once.

Commissioner Reed said there's more interface between asset management and project management software.

Tablets: T. Olson distributed a document detailing some tablets to be purchased for the Commissioners. A tablet could give commissioners access to the system. Commissioner Reed said it would organize the Commissioners better for the meetings. All the documents wouldn't need to be e-mailed to everyone. As the technology increases, it will be used more. He could see the Commissioners putting presentations together for the community and having it available on the tablet. Access into the Asset Management system would be helpful. All the documents, that are distributed at Commissioner meetings, could be sitting in the cloud and all commissioners would have access to them. When Commissioners leave and new commissioners come on board, all the information will follow in the tablets to the new commissioner. The historical capacity with years of commissioner data would be beneficial. The decision on which tablet is purchased is up to the DPW Commissioners, but the commissioners are looking for the recommendations from the IT Director. The Board of Selectmen has tablets and they have found them beneficial.

Miscellaneous cleanup: Chairman Gardner inquired if anyone hears about things that need cleaning up around town; we need to do something about them.

Tickler List: April, roads to be repaired, J. Parisi stated that roads that need repairing around the school will be the first priority. The DPW is working of a spreadsheet detailing all the roads needing repair along with a rating system; they'll be working off of that list.

Commissioner Reed commented on the 5/7/13 upcoming Public Hearing on the Tool Company, regarding the newest proposal. He stated that the DPW hasn't discussed their proposal. He recommends that the DPW look into it as it involves the water supply, public parking, etc.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 2013, in the Community Room at the Police Station at 7pm.

Commissioner Reed moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Sena, Vote: 3-0.

Tickler list:

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| May, 2013 | Water needs assessment |
| May, 2013 | Sediment Study, Long Beach |
| June, 2013 | Sewer hookup priorities |
| June, 2013 | Sewer use regulations |
| June, 2013 | List of roads to be repaired |
| June, 2013 | Water & Sewer rates |
| August, 2013 | FY '15 Operational Budget review |
| September, 2013 | FY '15 Capital budget review |