

Town of Harpswell
Mitchell Field Committee Meeting
January 4, 2016

Attendees: Jane Covey, Don Miskill, Rob Roark, Michael McCabe, Scott Sheffer, Nancy Sohl and Sandra Allen (via internet conferencing protocol).

Also present: None.

A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

Note: Committee members not physically present at the meeting cannot be counted for quorum or for votes on motions.

Meeting Minutes: The December 7, 2015 meeting minutes were approved with corrections [5-0-2].

Old Business: Action Items (not listed in any specific priority order)

- **Action item: Draft front gate parking area expansion site plan.**
- **Action Work List:** Tel-Com Conduit Repairs, pour concrete slabs on which to set granite benches, remove dead tree at entrance copse, repair trail ruts, asphalt road repairs, till and smooth lower meadow so it is usable as a grass playing area, remove remaining fence barb wire, burn or remove invasive plants debris at concrete pad, replace 5 2x4 posts on beach access trail, install 5 4x4 posts on new beach access trail, move barb wire from concrete pad, and Sentry Building Refurbishment.
- **Action item: Bluff Area Work Plan.**
- **Action item: Trim Oak trees at entrance and improve visibility of the entrance.**
- **Action item: Develop and implement invasive species mitigation and removal plan.**
- **Action item: Develop a strategic plan to upgrade and maintain the open meadows.**
- **Action Item: Pier Disposition and Boat Launch Public Information Action List:** Barney Baker Assistance, Pump House Cleanup, Town's Legal Cleanup Responsibility, Consulting Costs & Services, Pier Informational Package, Boat Launch Informational Package and Boat Launch Workshop.

New Business:

- **Preparation for Town Meeting:**
 - Don and Jane met with Mark on Dec 3 at 1PM to, develop a set of Q&A's that the public might have concerning the waterfront development recommendations, and a recommendation that allows Mark to begin an inquiry as to the viability of using the cofferdam fill material as an artificial reef.
 - Kristi supports our initiative to meet with the other town committees on this issue.
 - Rob spoke to Andre Cocquyt (abutter) to update him on what was happening at the waterfront. Rob briefed him on our recommendations. Andre indicated that there are bubble-screen technologies that mitigate the effects of an underwater blast.
 - Scott asked how much difference would there be if we had a breakwater vice a reef to shield the boat ramp and protect a mooring field. We need more research in order to answer the question. Mark will talk with Jim Hays about the breakwater suggestion and the mooring field.
 - Mark had a conversation with Kristi about the Pier. It will be our responsibility to clean it up if it falls. The following motion was made and approved [6-0-1].

Motion: Recommend that the Board of Selectmen allow the Town Planner to inquire about the feasibility of using the pier debris to build an artificial reef.

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- Rob indicated that there is a concern that we are “stepping” on the commercial marinas by building another boat ramp. We need to affirm their stated support for this initiative. Scott indicated that we should ask for boat launch counts.
- BoS meeting this Thursday will further discuss our waterfront recommendations.
- Here is the meeting schedule for the various committees:
 - Tue, Jan 5 - Harbor & Waterfront
 - Wed, Jan 6 - Conservation Commission
 - Tue, Jan 12 - Town Lands
 - Mon, Feb 1 – Recreation
- Don reviewed the four proposed warrant articles for the town meeting (see handouts). Rob talked about his concern that the first article calling for approval of our recommendations is critical to moving forward with the planning process. Scott asked if we needed updated cost numbers to move forward. Not necessary at this time as we are still in the planning stage and the specific costs will delineated when the town actually seek approval for the specific destruction or construction projects. What happens if the town does not approve the proposed article? Can we still move forward with the planning actions?
- Lets plan the public information meetings for the week of February 8. Jane will coordinate the meeting sites and times.
 - Monday, Feb 8 at Orr's Island
 - Tuesday, Feb 9 at Cundy's Harbor
 - Wednesday, Feb 10 at Harpswell Neck
 - Tuesday, March 1 at Town Office
- **Pier Disposition and Boat Launch Public Information Action List:**
 - Reviewed the *Mitchell Field Waterfront Vision and Warrant Action Plan 2016* (see handouts).
 - Reviewed the *Question and Answer for the Mitchell Field Waterfront Vision* (see handouts).
 - Need to develop the positive economic impact aspects of the recommendations.
 - Talk with Brunswick Recreation about their experience with the Mere Point boat ramp and usage data.
 - Need more info for the Q&A document. More info about users.
 - Need posters for the meetings
- **Entrance Kiosk** – Mike brought the sign in for viewing. The wood materials have been purchased and delivered to Dave Brooks’ barn for winter storage. Don will get the remaining MF Rules sign completed along with any recreation signs we will also include on the kiosk.
- **Water Tower** – Dave Chipman sent an email (see Handouts) to Jane outlining what he had done to date. There will be a warrant article asking to remove the water tower.
- **Action items:** No changes

Handouts:

- Draft *Question and Answer for the Mitchell Field Waterfront Vision* dated January 4, 2016
- Draft *Mitchell Field Waterfront Vision and Warrant Action Plan 2016*.
- Jane Covey email, *Re: Meeting Reminder, Agenda and Draft Minutes*, dated 1/4/2016 at 2:03 PM.
- Memo, *Proposed 2016 Warrant Articles for Mitchell Field*, dated December 14, 2015

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Next Meeting:

- Selectmen's meeting on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Town Office
- MFC meeting on February 1, 2016 at 5:30 PM at the Town Office
- Public Information Meeting on February 8 at Orrs Island, site/time is TBD
- Public Information Meeting on February 9 at Cundy's Harbor, site/time is TBD
- Public Information Meeting on February 10 at Harpswell Neck, site/time is TBD
- Public Information Meeting on March 1 at Town Office, time is TBD
- MFC meeting on March 7, 2016 at 5:30 PM at the Town Office
- Town Meeting at Harpswell Community School on March 12, 2016 at 8:00 AM.
- MFC meeting on April 4, 2016 at 5:30 PM at the Town Office

The MFIC Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Don Miskill, Secretary