

Town of Cohasset, 41 Highland Avenue, Cohasset, MA 02025
Cohasset Harbor Committee
Monday, January 9, 2023 6pm at Cohasset Sailing Club
Meeting Minutes

Agenda

Attendees

CHC Agenda

- Welcome
- Review and approve minutes
- Update on Governance Working Group; Lisa Hewitt
- Eel grass restoration/green crab eradication
- Peat hardening/ green mussels
- Recreational Shell fishing
- Climate resiliency
- New dinghy dock; Noel Collins
- Parker Ave Boat Ramp
- Government Island Pier/Dock
- Cohasset Wharf
- Deep water aquaculture
- Any business not submitted 48 hours prior
- Adjourn

- George Baumgarten (CHC Citizen at Large, CHIP)
- Susan Bryant (CHC CSCR)
- Tim Davis (CHC Citizen at Large, CHIP)
- Lorri Gibbons (CHC ex-officio, Harbormaster)
- Jeff Hartwell (CHC Rec Commission)
- Lisa Hewitt-Dick (CHC CMI, Governance)
- Sean Kenealy (CHC CSC) via Zoom
- Mike Sardina (CHC Citizen at Large, CHIP)
- Martin St John (CHC Yacht Club)
- Montanna Cassel (Town of Cohasset Resiliency & Grant Coordinator) via Zoom
- Jack Buckley
- Fran Collins
- Noel Collins
- Bob Deutsch
- Adam Donovan
- Ralph Dormitzer
- Susan Hoadley
- Mike Lane
- Doug McLellan
- Eamon O'Marah
- others

CHIP Agenda

- Welcome
- Review and approve minutes
- Review and discuss CHIP infrastructure priorities
- Report on progress from CHIP Working Group
 - Review Parker Avenue Boat Ramp project
 - Review Government Island Dock/Pier/Lift System project
 - Review and discuss potential Breakwater renovation and improvement
 - Review the engagement of Montanna Cassel
- Any business not submitted 48 hours prior
- Discuss next steps
- Adjourn

Meeting called to order 6:05.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

(Tim Davis)

- Minutes for CHC 6-15-22, 7-5-22 and 8-30-22 were approved (and are now posted on Cohassetma.org.)
- Minutes for CHIP 12/7/22 were approved (and are now posted on Cohassetma.org.)

46 Border St / Cohasset Wharf Lobster Pound

(Eamon O'Marah, Susan Hoadley)

- 46 Border St includes access to water will be open to the public. Project is following Chapter 91.
- Project developers
 - Are seeking someone to run the planned Lobster Pound, are not experts themselves.
 - Expressed concern about the current Lobster Pound, believe that it may not be economically viable, and is not used by all Cohasset Lobster fishermen.
 - Planned Lobster Pound is intended as primarily a retail outlet, albeit bigger than a grocery ie Stop & Shop, and not expected to operate as a wholesale outlet.
- Q: Is capacity of tank sufficient to hold Cohasset lobster catch. A: Proposed project intends to build as large a lobster tank as will fit Lobster Pound space.
- Next Steps: Tim Davis offered to facilitate meeting with Tom Sullivan, Eamon O'Marah & lobstermen. Susan Hoadley offered a collaborative discussion on project and regulatory constraints.

Montanna Cassel Introduction

Montanna introduced herself to Committee via Zoom.

- Montanna is contracted with Cohasset through 10/31/2023. Cohasset also hired Virginia LeClair, who will focus on Alternative Energy Committee.
- Focusing on grant writing and climate resilience initiatives: WHG Vulnerability study, Sea Level Rise, FMA flooding, Exec Office of Environmental Affairs.

Captains' Walk

(Mike Sardina, George Baumgarten)

- Dec 7, 2022. CHIP held public forum #1 to share existing conditions as they relate to pedestrian experience when walking around the harbor.
- Jan 18, 2023. Public Forum #2 will present feasibility studies of possible improvements to pedestrian experience.

Proposed New Public Dinghy Pier

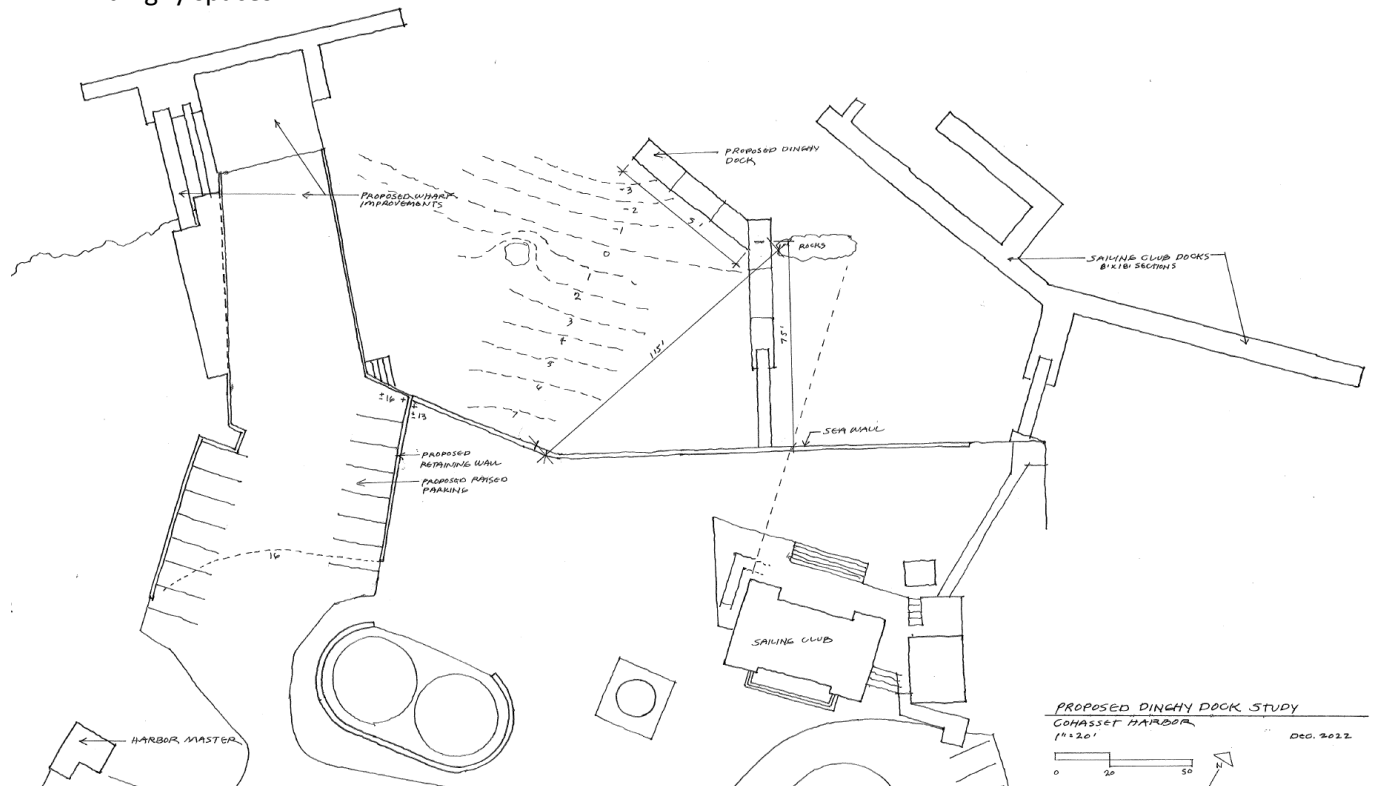
(Noel Collins)

Proposal: increasing dinghy dock space in harbor with a new public pier near Government Island between Sailing Club pier and Town Pier.

- Currently there is one mooring (P. Mooney's) in this vicinity that could theoretically be replaced with a pier with ~10 dinghies.
- Noel shared his interest in giving priority access to Seniors, those who age out of Sailing Club docks etc.
- From Noel's discussion with Keith Wallow, a local dock builder, proposed new pier would need one piling, estimated \$20k-30k to do plans.

Discussion:

- Concern voiced about favoring any demographic group ie Seniors, with access to a new dock.
- Would town consider creating an incentive to sharing of dinghies by mooring holders, to help alleviate demand for dock space?
- Lorri Gibbons shared that design of new Government Island Pier/Dock includes 10-12 new dinghy spaces.



Drawing courtesy of Mike Sardina

Parker Ave Boat Ramp

(Lorri Gibbons)

- Project is still targeting end of Feb – more or less on time.
- Cofferdam construction was impeded by ledge – dry worksite not possible. Instead, project will use divers to complete installation of concrete ramp components. No effect on end product, just on how assembly is completed.

Government Island Pier/Dock

(Lorri Gibbons)

- Design is complete. Engineers are submitting plans to Seaport Economic Council. Estimated cost is \$3.5-4 million, consistent with earlier estimates. Town share is 25%, to be on warrant at a future town meeting.
- Notional schedule: Target start Jan 2024, assuming May or November 2023 Cohasset Town Meeting provisionally approves ~\$1 million, and Seaport Economic Council approves ~\$3 million funding Q3 2023.

Coh Harbor Projects: Eel Grass, Green Crab eradication, Harden Peat

(Tim Davis)

- Tim voiced request for Harbor Committee member(s) to take leadership on these opportunities.
- Need to collaborate with Army Corp of Engineers to incorporate more environmental awareness into future dredging initiatives e.g., evaluate where to move sand in harbor to enable growth.
- Expect projects to be further informed by solutions proposed by WHG in 2023. Objective is to identify and seek grant opportunities.
- Following a lengthy exchange on working relationships and the issues above, Jack Buckley stated for the record that CCSCR will continue to collaborate with Harbor Committee on relevant issues and opportunities.

Recreational Shell Fishing

(Tim Davis)

- Regulation is with town counsel awaiting approval.
- Dependency: DMF awaiting signoff from Cohasset Sewer Commission that they can issue alert if there is sewer system overflow.
- Q: Where are the shellfish beds? A: Little Harbor, etc.

Deep Water Aquaculture

(Tim Davis)

- Design of Government Island Pier/Dock is intended to support future aquaculture.
- Q: Do regulations restrict landings of shellfish from other towns into Cohasset? A: _____
- Comments from Lobstermen in attendance: Skeptical. Aquaculture will be challenging in Mass Bay given current experience with lobstering, where fishing is prohibited from end of January through mid-May. DMF does not want vertical lines in Mass Bay.

Governance Working Group

(Lisa Hewitt Dick)

- Zoom meeting to be scheduled this month (January).
- Topics: How to structure governance i.e., relationship with Municipal Waterway Committee, etc.

Meeting Adjourned 7:20pm.