

Town of Cohasset, 41 Highland Avenue, Cohasset, MA 02025
Cohasset Harbor Implementation Planning (“CHIP”) Working Group
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday March 1, 2022 4pm

Agenda

1. Call to order, Roll Call
2. Welcome
3. Report on progress from CHIP Working Group
 - a. Review Parker Avenue Boat Ramp project
 - b. Review Town Dock Conveyor System
 - c. Review Government Island Dock/Pier/Lift System project
 - d. Review and discuss potential Breakwater renovation and improvement
 - e. Review possible dredging program
 - f. Review resiliency programs
4. Report on progress from CHG Working Group
5. Discuss potential aquaculture program
6. Any business not submitted 48 hours prior
7. Adjourn

Attendees (via Zoom)

Tim Davis (CHIP)
George Baumgarten (CHIP)
Mike Sardina (CHIP)
Barbara Canney (Harbor Committee)
Jeff Hartwell (Harbor Committee)
Lorri Gibbons (Cohasset Harbor Master)
Lauren Lind (Town of Cohasset)
Tom Bell (Conservation Commission)
Peter Pescatore (Open Space Committee)
Jackie Dormitzer (Cohasset Historical Commission)
Adam Donovan
Josh Kimball

Discussion / Minutes

Harbor Climate Resilience Initiative

(George Baumgarten)

- January 25, 2022. Forum #1: “[Exploring Potential Impacts of Extreme Weather Events on Cohasset Harbor](#)” with expert speakers including Mark Borrelli, Tom Bell and Jack Buckley. 70+ attendees, positive feedback from multiple members of Select Board and other citizens. See [Cohasset Harbor Committee](#) page for more information.
- April 6 or 11, 2022. Forum #2 in planning. Focus on how Town of Cohasset is preparing infrastructure near the harbor based on vulnerability to extreme weather events. In discussion with potential speakers representing sewer, water & public safety departments.
- May/June 2022. Forum #3 in planning. Focus on a view from Beacon Hill on potential funding for Cohasset’s climate resilience initiatives. In discussion with potential speakers including Joan Meschino, Patrick O’Conner and agency representatives.

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Parker Avenue Boat Ramp

(Lorri Gibbons)

- Project start delayed until 11/2/2022.
- Contract negotiations by Michelle Leary and Lorri Gibbons are nearing completion, with intent to lock in terms and conditions.

Lift System Project / Conveyor (Town Landing – Lawrence Wharf)

(Lorri Gibbons)

- Expecting a new bid for the conveyor since the original bid has expired, due to supply chain issues.
- Hoping to be ready for 2022 season.

Government Island Dock/Pier

(Lorri Gibbons)

- 2/28/2022 meeting with fishing industry representatives. There is interest in more docks on NE side of pier. Carlos Pena from Foth Engineering will produce new conceptual sketches incorporating those ideas.
- Is there potential for bait storage? Lorri reports that few harbors offer this. In discussion with Hull, which has offered bait storage for 30+ years, there are significant challenges such as managing which fishermen participate, need to clean and pump droppings into municipal sewer system, etc.

Cohasset Harbor Channel Dredging

(Lorri Gibbons)

- Lorri Gibbons is in process to submit dredging report.
- Cohasset harbor has stayed pretty constant since last dredging 6-7 years ago, with exception of loss of depth near can #10 near Whitehead.
- Lorri set expectation that dredging by Army Corps could still be years away due to process to find funds, perform test borings, then do actual dredging.
- Alternative to perform dredging privately? Lorri reported that regulations from Army Corp create significant restrictions in use of private contractors for dredging.

Cohasset Harbor Breakwater

(Tim Davis)

- Tim reported that initial research from 1/25/2022 Harbor Climate Resilience Initiative Forum indicates that breakwater enhancements may not improve Cohasset Harbor's resilience to climate events, to be determined.
- A result of the Harbor Climate Resilience Initiative may be an engineering study of resilience of Cohasset Harbor that incorporates the breakwater.

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Discuss potential aquaculture program

(Tim Davis)

- Josh Kimball is a Cohasset Police Department's new Natural Resource officer, and he may help support the office of Shellfish Constable.

Captain's Walk Survey

(Lauren Lind, George Baumgarten, Mike Sardina, Jackie Dormitzer)

- Lauren Lind shared that Cavanaro Consulting completed a survey in mid-February 2022 of the streets and surroundings of the Captain's Walk from Margin Street to Border Street to Government Island.
- Mike Sardina has reviewed the survey, and proposes a meeting in the next 2-3 weeks dedicated to review of the survey. He noted that it can be effective if virtual, or it can be in-person if town policies permit. Lauren noted that town meetings are still virtual through end of March.
- Proposed purpose of initial Captain's Walk Survey Meeting:
 - Agree on key objectives for the Captain's Walk as a physical walking path in terms of pedestrian space, parking, road width, etc.
 - Review survey for existing conditions, opportunities and constraints.
- Mike proposed to share a version of the survey at the upcoming meeting that he has colorized to facilitate its interpretation.
- It is important to understand potential planning for:
 - Walkway in area of CHP and Cohasset Wharf properties.
 - Possibilities for surfaces upon which Captain's Walk historical signs might be mounted. In discussion with Jackie Dormitzer. Mike advised that it is too early to finalize signage as there may be need for further studies before surfaces and planning may be finalized, and updated signage ordered by Cohasset Historical Commission.
- Resilience, infrastructure, and seawalls, etc. are important considerations as part of Captain's Walk planning.
- Tim Davis noted
 - It is important to keep the Cohasset Wharf (Tom Sullivan and team) engaged in planning.
 - A new "Citizens Parking" group is concerned about parking in the harbor and the village

New Business

Potential new parking, mixed use area

(Adam Donovan, Tom Bell, Tim Davis)

- Adam Donovan inquired if there is any consideration for the town to acquire the vacant lot at the corner of Stockbridge and Margin St across from town dock, and use it for harbor parking, and be incorporated into Elm Street Corridor design planning.
- Cohasset Hospitality Partners own the property and has previously indicated a willingness to sell it.

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- Tim Davis noted that the property is zoned as a building site and is in a flood plain. It could be an entrance to Captain's Walk, used as base for recreational activities such as kayaking.
- Tom Bell of Conservation Committee noted that town should understand restrictions up front, that it is in a FEMA zone with lots of restrictions, including possible limited use of impervious (i.e., paved) surfaces.

Support for Elm Street Corridor

(Tim Davis)

- Members of CHIP signed a letter in support of Elm Street Corridor redesign.

Meeting Minutes Review & Approval

(George Baumgarten)

- Minutes from CHIP meetings on 9/30/21 and 11/4/21 were reviewed and approved.
- Minutes are posted in the Agenda Center for Cohasset Harbor Committee.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 pm