



MARGINAL WAY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

AUGUST 3, 2020

This meeting was held vis ZOOM

4:00PM

A. ROLL CALL: Joan Griswold, Louesa Gillespie, Gail Brother, Elaine Cooper, Kristen Arnold and Guest, Joyce Fletcher

Members Excused: Paul Breen

A quorum was noted.

B. MINUTES

Minutes were not available for review without corrections.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT - Gail Brother

- \$14,300 is available as General Funds for the MWC for fiscal year 2020/2021. Treasurer Mandy Cummings reports that there is a \$19.25 charge to the account that was not submitted by the MWC. This will be reviewed.
- Donations at the Light House, through the end of June, which will be added to the Beautification Fund for 2019/2020, were reported as \$318.99. As this was not monitored recently, there is no way of knowing what total might have been in the box. Gail will work with the police monitoring this.
- Joan reported there is \$104,191 remaining in the Marginal Way Repair Fund, from the original \$257,624 previously given by the Town Preservation Fund and other donations.
- A check in the amount of \$90,586 has been received from FEMA for work completed in 2018. These costs were advanced by the Town. This is 75% of the money that will be received on the first projects from the 2018 damage. Included are, the four (4) walls, vegetation and the cement repairs that were needed immediately. An expense report will be generated.
- FEMA has also advanced the Town \$676,00 for additional work to be completed. More money will be available going forward as projects are completed.

D. CHAIR REPORT – Joan Griswold

The O’Leary project sites are looking good. Watering and weeding are completed. Public Works will be contacted relative to reinstating the pruning schedule.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Storm Repair Status – Next Steps – Joan Griswold

- Walsh Engineering will be completing the RFP’s on 6 chosen projects for the next phase of repair. Areas 7-8-9 have similar work requirements of adding and pinning rock, soil, and plantings. Similarly, projects 24-27-33 will allow contractors to use the same Frazier Pasture access path to build walls in two sections and add to the revetment in the third. The RFP’s should be prepared in mid-August, then approved for scope, advertised, site meetings, bids, reviewed for scope and contract. Work may possibly start in the fall if contractors are hired; otherwise, this will be postponed until the spring.
- Contractors will be well screened, examples of work will be viewed, and projects will be overseen by Walsh, Dave Riccio, Joan, and others, as necessary.
- FEMA has recently questioned three projects (i.e. the Devil’s Kitchen embankment) as to whether the scope of work is integral to the Marginal Way. Walsh has submitted further information packets. A discussion on liability insurance, bonding requirements, and approvals of work completed followed.

2. People Counter – June – Gail Brother

- The people counter shows that we are at 55% of expected walkers on the Marginal Way: July 2020 – 42,638 vs. July 2019 – 78,150. Mid-week #'s is below 1,000 per day. Appears there are not as many long-term visitors. Louesa confirmed this number with occupancy rates being at 46%. Guests are staying more often 2-3 days vs. long term stays in previous years.
- All the MW walker’s doing observation counts were thanked for their input and accurate counts over the past several months. Compliance counts will no longer be reported to the Covid Task Force as group has switched their focus to complaints. Reporting has shown erratic behavior on compliance for all age groups. Compliance is improved when the CSO’s are working, although with more tourists this becomes lower.
- Other comments noted that Canadian Citizens are not yet allowed here as are Massachusetts residents; visitors are sometimes told not to worry about completing the Covid compliance forms until leaving; and that the rapid

testing being done at York Hospital is now backed up until the end of August.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. New sign to protect tree at restoration site

- Barbara O'Leary is extremely happy with the new plantings on Town land in front of her property. There are concerns about two old growth cherry trees hanging over the Marginal Way at Locust Grove. People are sitting on the limbs and bouncing. One whole limb has already been downed. The arborist who works with the committee feels the more problematic tree is over 75 years old and has at least another 20 years if protected. A sign, possibly with a humorous note, may be attempted before the idea of another fence is required.

2. Other

- The time has come to review two documents for the MW Committee; the Standards and the Select Board order to create the Committee. Twenty years have passed since the inception of the Committee in 2000 as an ad hoc group and then the official promotion of the Committee. There is also a need to define how we are different from the MW Preservation Fund group. These could possibly be addressed during a workshop. Realistic goals need to be set.
- A discussion about how the direction and training of new members may be enhanced. Each Chair usually brings forward work on an interest; with Joan, that has been invasive plants. There must be training provided to new members as few are professionally trained.
- A Doodle Survey will be sent to members relative to scheduling an extra meeting this month. The question was asked whether this meeting should be considered for Zoom or under the auspices of a workshop before going public?

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08pm