

DREDGING COMMITTEE REPORT 2022

HIGH BAR HARBOR LAGOON SYSTEM SHOALING

In the High Bar Lagoon system there are several areas of shoaling that have need for dredging right now. The areas identified are at the main entrances of each of the lagoon areas . A print out of the areas is available. The printout has been completed by the Township engineer Mr.Frank Little. The areas have become so shoaled over that they are presenting a safety issue to the public using watercraft in our area. For that reason the HBHTA has been in contact with the appropriate agencies to get the problem fixed.

This is not a new problem but it has taken on a new urgency as the degree of shoaling has become extreme and needs attention now.

ACTIONS BY THE HBHTA SO FAR

The areas of shoaling have been identified and quantified . Bathymetric (depth soundings) studies have been completed by the Township for all the entrance way shoaling areas. The quantity of sharing material has been determined in cubic yards.

The nature of the material shoaling up in the lagoons (Soil Analysis) has also been determined. For the most part it is silt but in some areas it also has sand in it. The nature of the material is important as it will determine where the material can be deposited after the dredging is completed.

Permitting for the work needed at the entrances will be applied for by the Township . Coordination of the permitting is being managed by Mr Frank Little the township engineer.

DREDGE SPOIL DISPOSAL

The Dike has been identified as a dredge spoil site in previous agreements with the DEP , High Bar Harbor and the Township years ago. The settlement was with the estate of Arnold Desiderio in the Takings Law Suit between the Estate of Arnold Desiderio and the State on New Jersey. Still to be determined is the issue of whether these specific dredge spoils will qualify to deposition on the Dike. It goes back to the nature of the material to be removed.

If not put on the dike material removed may have to be dewatered and then trucked to an approved landfill . This will be the most expensive option . Depositing it on the dike will be much less costly. Placing the dredge spoils back in the sedge island area would be ideal but this latter option has a lot of permitting issues to overcome.

Recently communication with the Forsyth National Wildlife Sanctuary has begun to explore this option

STILL TO BE DONE

The permitting is the next critical step and that process is being managed by the Township under the direction of Mr. Frank Little. Once the permit is granted the dredging can be done provided the funding mechanism has been identified and approved and the contract has been negotiated with the dredging company chosen

ADDITIONAL AREA OF CONCERN

Many residents along Butler and Antioch have shoaling in close to their docks. The dredging permit so far doesn't cover that problem. There are significant concerns about dredging close into bulkheads as the risk of undermining the bulkhead is very real so dredging companies have told us they will not dredge close to the docks or bulkhead . How this will be addressed has not yet been fully determined. I am optimistic a solution will be found.

I have with me today the planning and evaluation drawings for those who would like to see them and ask questions . They were provided by the township. I will be available after the meeting to show them to anyone who cares to look at them