



**Provincetown Public Pier Corporation (PPPC)
Judge Welsh Room
Meeting Minutes of Thursday, March 26, 2015**

Members Present: Kerry Adams (KA), Carlos Verde CV), Ginny Binder (GB) and Herbie Hintze (HH).

Members Absent: Scott Fraser (excused).

Other Attendees: Rex McKinsey (RM), Harbormaster, and Ellen C. Battaglini, Administrative Assistant.

Chair Kerry Adams called the Public Meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

AGENDA

Public Statements:

None.

Special Agenda Items:

Town Meeting Articles: RM reviewed Article 13, which is a part of the operating budget and is related to the 295 budget for Harbormaster services. This budget has been underfunded for years and the PPPC has been subsidizing this budget with tenant revenue and can no longer afford to do that. The Board of Selectmen voted 3-2 to recommend \$195,000, which was up from the approximately \$118,000 that the budget number has been for the last couple of years. The true cost, if the department were to be run independently, would be about \$257,000. RM is scheduled to meet with the Finance Committee again tomorrow evening.

A motion was made to support Article 13.

Motion: Ginny Binder

2nd: Herbie Hintze

The Board discussed the motion.

Vote:

Yes: 4

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

GB and HH volunteered to write an Article narrative for Town Meeting.

RM reviewed Article 18-11 and the report that will be available for Town voters. The Article seeks \$4.9 million for the replacement of the floating docks and the addition of a wave attenuation system. The Town is eligible for 75% reimbursement of the costs by FEMA. The Article is subject to a Proposition 2 ½ override on the Town ballot in May. The Board discussed the Article.

A motion was made to support Article 18-11.

Motion: Ginny Binder ***2nd:*** Carlos Verde

Vote:

Yes: 4 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

Motion passes.

RM reviewed Article 18-13, which seeks \$335,000 for immediate repairs to pilings and the floating docks from storm damage sustained during this past winter. If the winter storms are declared a disaster and FEMA makes funds available, the Town would be partially reimbursed for these costs. RM said that work would most likely begin in the fall.

A motion was made to support Article 18-13.

Motion: Herbie Hintze ***2nd:*** Carlos Verde

Vote:

Yes: 4 **No:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

Motion passes.

RM reviewed Article 35, a petitioned Article to change the structure of the PPPC to a Town Board, continuing to oversee the Pier and the Harbor and be under the auspices of the BOS. The Board discussed the Article.

A motion was made to not support Article 35.

Motion: Carlos Verde ***2nd:*** Kerry Adams

The Board discussed the motion. CV withdrew his motion.

A motion was made to recommend indefinitely postponing Article 35.

Motion: Carlos Verde ***2nd:*** Herbie Hintze

Vote:

Yes: 3 **No:** 1 **Abstain:** 0

Motion passes.

Review of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Public Meetings on 03/12/15 as written.

Motion: Herbie Hintze

2nd: Carlos Verde

Vote:

Yes: 4

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

Board of Selectmen meeting of March 19th regarding 295 budget: KA reviewed the meeting at which he and RM discussed the 295 budget with the BOS. The BOS was reminded that as of June 30th, there was no contract. The BOS will be coming to the table to negotiate with the PPPC with the money that was approved at Town Meeting. The Board discussed the 295 budget and the upcoming negotiations with the BOS.

Directors' Statements:

HH: He commented on what he thought was a misleading article in today's Banner. He thought that some of the facts in the article were inaccurate. He thought Article 35 was a bad idea and was bound to fail.

GB: She thought dissolving the Pier Corps was a bad idea. She thought it important that voters know that the Pier Corps was formed to ensure that its management was not politicized. The Pier Corps has run the Pier well and has been able to augment the revenue that comes from the businesses that operate on it. It was discouraging that the article in The Banner was so lopsided.

CV: He agreed with both HH and GB. There are a lot of great events that are held on the Pier that the Town is involved in. A lot of work happens in the winter on the Pier. He thought that the idea to dissolve the Pier was insulting. The Board members are only volunteers. There are plenty of opportunities for the public to speak to the Board and no one has chosen to come in to talk about the Pier's finances. He doesn't understand what Article 35 is about and if the BOS is unhappy with how the Pier is being run, as far as he is concerned, it can take over the management of the Pier.

KA: The Board seems to have an adversarial relationship with FinCom and he doesn't know why. The Board has done everything that has been asked of it. He felt as though the Directors who met with FinCom were not part of the discussion. When he and RM met with the BOS, which he thought went well, the Chair of the BOS claimed that several years ago, the Board was asked to meet with FinCom and it refused. The Board welcomes all to attend its meetings. If the

Pier Corp. becomes just another Town Board, it will have to compete with other Town Boards for funding and that process can be very political. The Pier is run well now and repairs have been made by staff at a discount.

Working Group Reports

Trap Shed Sub-Committee: KA explained that the trap shed program was set up to be an incubator for artists but since some artists have occupied sheds for several years; the Board should discuss increasing the rental fees for those artists. The Board discussed the issue. HH said he had spoken to several trap shed artists who would not be opposed to an increase in their rent. GB raised the issue of acquiring more trap sheds. She suggested a lottery system or rotating competition for available sheds. KA suggested inviting the trap shed artists to attend a Board meeting to discuss some ideas related to the issue.

RM explained that the Chapter 91 license would be involved if more trap sheds were to be installed. There was still a permitting issue with the Army Corps of Engineers that needed resolution, which should happen by next year.

CV suggested running a lottery whereby an artist would rent a shed for three years and the fee would be increased each year. After that period of time, the shed would go back into the lottery again.

KA raised the issue of an artist who rented a seasonal trap shed last summer and applied to rent one again this year. She was not chosen to occupy a seasonal shed based on an evaluation of the other seasonal trap shed applicants and the origin of the items that she sold in her shed last year. She was sent a letter to that effect. She wrote back asking to rent the weekly shed. He wanted the Board to discuss and weigh in on the issue of whether she should be allowed to do so. RM said that based on conversations that he had with her about some of the elements of her work, she should not be allowed to occupy a weekly shed. It appeared to him that she was buying jewelry wholesale and putting it on personalized cards to sell. He felt that was in violation of the spirit of the trap shed program. KA read a letter that had been sent to the artist and a letter that the artist had sent in response.

The Board briefly discussed the issue. RM will e-mail the artist's application and her product materials to the Board for its review.

A motion was made to not allow Carol Wells to rent a trap shed.

Motion: Herbie Hintze

2nd: Ginny Binder

The Board discussed the motion. CV doesn't know enough to vote on the issue. HH withdrew his motion and the issue was tabled until the next meeting.

KA suggested setting a Public Hearing date to meet with the trap shed artists.

Pier Manager's Report

FEMA report: The FEMA report in the packet is detailed and was covered in the Banner and sent to the Town. The physical plant is fine.

Shark Receivers: The Harbormaster's Office will be getting three underwater receivers that will monitor tagged sharks.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen C. Battaglini,
PPPC Administrative Coordinator

Kerry Adams, Chair