



Harbor Committee

Public Meeting

Thursday, January 14, 2016
Provincetown Town Hall
Location: Caucus Hall Meeting Room
260 Commercial Street
Time: 4:00 pm

Minutes

I. Call to Order

Meeting was convened at 4:00 in Caucus Hall Meeting Room, where another meeting was taking place (Personnel). Susan made a motion to re-convene the meeting in Judge Welsh Room. Laura seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was moved to Judge Welsh Room. Meeting re-convened at 4:08.

Attendance: Susan Avellar, Laura Ludwig, Elise Cozzi (Alternate); Cheryl Andrews (Board of Selectman rep.); Rex McKinsey (Harbormaster). Peter Brown (Banner).
Members excused: David Flattery, John Santos. Victor Seltsam not present.

II. Review/amend/approve minutes Laura moved to accept the minutes from December 10th as-is. Susan seconded. Discussion ensued regarding accepting minutes without input from other members. Review of the December minutes revealed an edit that should have been made by Rex. Motion was amended to postpone review of minutes until the January 28th meeting. All were in favor.

III. Public Statements none

IV. Harbormaster Report

CCS hosted a group of scientists on Tuesday to discuss Herring Cove issues including sediment movement, erosion and eelgrass beds. The Long Point eelgrass meadow (aka the Lobster Plain) was surveyed by the Harbormaster's office last year after a hydraulic clammer in January ran through the area, scouring the area. Video and sonar images were taken which showed the scours of eelgrass in that area. Eelgrass was also found at Shankpainter Bar. DEP is putting together a comprehensive eelgrass mapping strategy from Marblehead to Provincetown. DMF looks at the area in terms of clam productivity. The Park has a vision that is broader

than even the town's, looking at physical change over a century. The meeting was productive and more work will follow.

V. Old Business:

Signs for hazards Rex reported that Chairman Santos is interested in posting signage at submerged or partially submerged hazards in the harbor such as groins, rock piles, wrecks, oyster beds or mariculture activity. Signs would be mounted on concrete block with PVC pipe to accommodate wave and tide action. Discussion will wait until John can be at the meeting.

Regulation recommendations Mooring rates -- Rex met with the BOS earlier this week regarding the mooring rates. He provided three years of rates for comparison. Cheryl provided background as to why BOS is interested in working on the fees. The BOS is interested in having the Harbor Comm provide a recommendation for a fee increase so that it can be brought forward at a public hearing. By statute, mooring fees are sent to the Waterways account which is often drawn on later in the fiscal year. The account has stayed relatively flat recently and BOS would like to see it increased.

Concern has been expressed about raising fees for smaller boats. However, the BOS believes there is a middle ground that could be found regarding raising fees for other levels.

Susan noted that we recommended at an earlier meeting in November with the BOS to leave rates as-is for this coming year, highlighting the importance for youth to have easy access to their boats to encourage a lifetime of boating interest.

Rex provided information regarding the number of mooring permits issued per category (size of boat and age of permittee).

Susan moved that we recommend to increase mooring fees for vessels greater than 20' by \$25 each, leaving the two smaller categories as-is. Elise 2nded the motion and discussion ensued. When \$25 is added to each category above the 2 lowest, an additional \$10,000 is added to the mooring fee total, bringing it to just over \$81,000. A vote was taken and all were in favor of the motion as stated. The vote helps move the issue along to public hearing phase.

Insurance rates have already been discussed w/ BOS and agreed upon, so Rex recommended packaging the issue with the mooring rates at the public hearing.

Kayak racks No update (Victor not present). Elise asked about the kayak rack that is in the beach grass in the West End and whether it would be removed. Rex does want to move it to the opposite side, closer to the boat ramp.

VI. New Business:

Election of officers With three members missing, Susan felt it was not prudent to make any nominations. Rex suggested leaving the slate as-is until September.

Re Wave Attenuator – Susan reviewed the history of its development, and wondered why the Harbor Committee has not been involved in the current discussions of the project. BOS and Pier Corp do discuss the wave attenuator project, and it is often on their agenda. Rex said that would be fine to have a Harbor Comm member attend these meetings. Laura moved that Susan be the point person for such meetings, Elise seconded. Susan feels it is important to be current in order to inform residents with questions. All were in favor and the motion passed.

VII. Adjourn Susan extended thanks to Cheryl for attending the meeting. Elise moved to adjourn, Laura seconded and all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 4:59pm.

Next HC meeting:

Next tentatively scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 4:00pm in Town Hall if needed