



# Minutes

The Provincetown Public Pier Corporation Public Meeting of Thursday, August 9, 2019, at 6:00pm, in the Caucus Hall of Town Hall, 260 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA 02657.

**Members Present:** Regina (Ginny) Binder (RB), Chair; Herbie Hintze (HH); Carlos Verde (CV); Scott Frasier (SF).

**Absent:** Richard C. (Rick) Holland (RH).

**Other Attendees:** Rex McKinsey (RM), Harbormaster & Pier Manager; Doug Boulanger (DB), Facilities Manager; Jamie Demetriou (JD), Office Manager; David Gardner (DG), Acting Town Manager.

**Agenda** (Discussion may ensue, votes may be taken)

## 1. Public Statements

1. Likes how the pier is going now; it was a mess 25 years ago. No way to be completely satisfied with how the pier is run. Is concerned about much of what goes on at the pier; there is no way for everyone to agree. Hopes that it won't fall back into a contentious situation with any possible upcoming changes.
2. Barbara: I come from a state level transportation world. This pier is a big deal. People who come to the town via the pier don't think of it as MacMillan pier, but the town's port. It's the "port of Provincetown" and should be referred to that way.
3. Josh: I am here in support of RM. I've been in and out of a lot of ports and the position of liaison to the ports is the hardest job, and RM is an expert. He never has a bad day; does his job with grace; keeps a good, tight waterfront.

## 2. Review Minutes

Review of Minutes of July 11, 2019 meeting.

The minutes were approved unanimously, but then, because of a motion by CV to table the review of minutes until RM has had a chance to review them, a unanimous vote to rescind the approval of the minutes was passed; RB seconded. Passed 4-0-0.

## 3. Special Agenda Items

### Discuss Special Assignment Report

RM stated how he was given time since July 16<sup>th</sup> for this special assignment to outline his duties, how his time is spent, and how perhaps it can be better allocated.

SF outlined how the PPPC is considering restructuring the Harbormaster's duties. One option is to have the Harbormaster continue in his current duties; another option is to revert the Harbormaster role to reporting to the town (i.e., the police chief) as part of town government. This responsibility is not called for in the PPPC's mandate by the town. Many of the duties that RM now has do not typically fall into those of most Harbormasters. With the expanded position, SF feels that it is the Board's view that the current position cannot handle all of the duties.

RB asked for clarity in RM's report regarding the wide variety of RM's duties, thus why RM was asked to be at today's meeting.

RM stated that, at the outset of his special assignment, the Board moved the Pier Manager role over to DB, and moved much of RM's duties over to DGER as Acting Harbormaster. RM is working essentially from home or out of the Commons. RM proceeded in the meeting to walk the Board through his presentation.

RB asked how Environmental Planning works between RM and the conservation agent (currently the environmental planner). RM stated that it is not just him, but he is involved in it.

SF noted that the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> buckets of duties easily come out to a full-time position by themselves alone.

RM stated that if the position is moved back to being under the town, then PPPC has to look at the budget implications and how they'll affect the town. RM overviewed returning the position to being under the police department, noting how some things just can't be done in that particular set up, i.e., potential conflicts of staff. Specifically, the 3<sup>rd</sup> shift Harbormaster is currently responsible for cleaning the restroom facilities, etc. Moving the position over to the police dept would be the least destructive, but not the ideal situation.

Responding to RB's question about placing the position under DPW, RM noted that it would be possible and that he thought it was actually structured that way in other Cape towns, possibly in Eastham and/or Orleans.

SF stated that, in terms of where the organization might physically reside, it obviously has to reside on the pier; but there's no reason why the PPPC would have to have its main office on the pier itself. CV does not want to move the Harbormaster or pier personnel physically off of the pier.

RM emphasized that this is a work-in-progress and is being added and amended to. If all of this was going to be worked into a new department, there would be challenges, i.e., a need for additional full-time staff.

SF, addressing DG, noted that the Board is not trying to tell DG how to organize the town, but did want to present him with options about how it could possibly be done.

RM noted that, as mentioned in the August 6, 2019 meeting, he would like to keep working on the presentation.

SF felt that the Board should think hard about the budget implications of the proposal as they relate to the town and what they are wanting to expend on the PPPC. Regarding hard vs. soft costs, what would shift over, cost-wise, to the town versus the PPPC? Can RM outline specific things that would transfer over? In some ways we are in two businesses – the harbor vs. the pier. Where do the two divisions have overlap? Could some of the synergies be regained between operations and the Assistant Harbormasters in a new organizational structure?

#### Doug's Trip to SF Marina

DB traveled recently to Virginia to the SF Marina production facility. He is pleased with what he saw. Biggest concern is that ACK wants to ship everything at once, which would affect the scheduling of the work. DB working on getting a better schedule, ideally getting two shipments. Worst case is having to adjust PPPC's schedule and temporary relocation plan. Will know by end of this or next week about the schedule. Overall the trip was productive, if not completely successful.

CV felt that, if the schedule is pushed back, it could impact the lobster fleet significantly. SF Marina and ACK should assume the costs of shipping their promised deliverables all at once. SF agreed, noting that we need to make sure the vendors understand that we have commercial tenants, and that this isn't just a recreational pier. Being late is not an option (CV and RB agreed).

#### Courtesy Float Repairs

DB summarized the history of the Courtesy Float failures, most recently last week during an extremely low tide. DB presented three options to get it repaired. Option 3 felt by DB as the best option for the fastest and least expensive remedy, as well as being able to build on this option for future repairs. CV suggested that, at low tide, the damages be patched by a welder to help avoid any possible immediate structural failure. DGER agreed.

RB emphasized that if we do option 3, that it is only a fix for this year. RB agrees with option three, but does not feel that it is not a permanent solution. The Courtesy Float should not be in the same situation by next year.

CV suggested keeping this repair project separate for bidding purposes, even though prior contractors may be solicited for bids. CV made a motion to allocate \$4,000 to this project; HH seconded. All in favor 4-0-0.

#### Clover Review

JD met with people from Clover vendor last week. Some concerns about the reliability of Clover. Also reviewing another POS system. SF noted that PPPC has a limited number of systems that can be reviewed due to the chosen system needing to interact with the town's system. RB feels that we should review what systems the town can use and base our decisions on that.

#### Seal Feeding Activity/Signage

DGER discussed the letter from Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office about not feeding the seals, and adding additional signage. SF said that the only people he has seen feeding the seals are the tenants, and that we need to tell the tenants. CV commented that, from a liability perspective, having a small sign on the pier would be beneficial and that, since it is a federal issue, PPPC can distance themselves from the penalties. The signage will be provided free through the federal government.

#### **4. Pier Manager Report**

##### Captain of the Kalmar Nyckel

CV and DB met with the Captain of the Kalmar Nyckel and discussed details of what they provide; details were outlined in DB's presentation to the Board.

##### Trash

CV discussed concern that the trash receptacles are being used for personal use (significant amounts of home trash). DPW has a special dumpster for fishing trash (nets, ropes, etc.). There is also an issue around oil disposal in that it is not being taken to DPW. DB suggested (CV agreed) that there be additional trash receptacles.

RB floated the idea of adding an environmental charge, which would financially allow for additional trash pick-up. Additional signage about proper disposal was also discussed as a possibility. CV suggested that an email blast to all pier tenants stating that we will be more diligent about both trash and oil disposal.

#### **5. Harbormaster Report**

DGER is creating a Work Group for recommendations re: wake reduction. SF suggested that, before doing this Work Group, he determines an absolute wake limit (to prevent unnecessary debate). DGER stated that the problem with SF's suggestion is that wake height and wave length makes it more complicated to determine an acceptable limit. Most stakeholders feel that we should wait until after Labor Day to implement any change to improve wake reduction.

SF made a motion to adjourn at 8:18pm; HH seconded and it passed 4-0-0, RB, HH, SF, CV.

Respectfully Yours,  
T. Jason Brown