



Harbor Committee

Public Meeting

Thursday, February 6, 2020
Provincetown Town Hall Auditorium
260 Commercial Street

MINUTES

I. Meeting Called to Order at 5:06pm

Members present: Susan Avellar (Vice-chair), Laura Ludwig, Elise Cozzi, David Flattery (Chair), John Santos (on the phone). Staff: Rex McKinsey, Don German, Steve Wisbauer. General Public: Alex Brown (who called the shellfish committee meeting to order at 5:08pm including members Bob Gustafson & Lory Santos (on the phone)); Carlos Verde; Mike Glasfeld.

II. Review/amend/approve minutes

Susan moved to wait to review the Jan. 22 public hearing minutes until after this continued public hearing meeting is completed. Laura seconded. Roll call vote was taken and all were in favor.

Rex reviewed the annual meeting schedule: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 5pm. No meetings in July & August unless necessary; and only one in November & December due to holidays.

III. Public Statements

Rex read an email from Michael Coffin into the record, sent in response to vessel wake mitigation, describing his experience with and concerns about wake interactions.

Mike Glasfeld, Bay State Cruises, made two comments. He has listened to the several complaints regarding safety concerns and suggested that if Option 1 was in place those occasions would not have happened. He then related how he observed a big van nearly hit a pedestrian on Shankpainter, and drew a correlation that a change in speed on that street would have made no difference in the outcome, naming enforcement or re-routing as better solutions. He stated that the ferries all have AIS on board and that their speeds are monitored and able to be readily enforced.

Alex Brown stated that while he has concern regarding the wake situation, it was far better this past summer than in previous years, and that some operators respect the regs and others

don't. He suggested that if an issue arises, a call should be made immediately to the Harbormaster naming the offending vessel. Each operator is ultimately responsible for his/her own vessel. He appreciates the compromises put forward by the staff regarding the insurance requirements, and also the mooring regs.

Carlos Verde agreed that we give the original solution to wake issues (Option 1) a chance to be tested before making other changes to the regs. He asked about how the insurance regs would be checked/enforced for transients. Rex responded they would be handled the way that private mooring fields are monitored.

IV. Marine Department Updates

Chapter 91 project update – Rex and the town manager met last week w/ Jim Vincent. Robin Craver has familiarity w/ the Ch. 91 program and made some suggestions that Jim is following up with. A job description for a Planning Level 4 position is being generated for submission to the legislators.

Washington Ave. landing update -- Rex has spoken w/ Lin Martin, MIS specialist. The town uses an online maps program and she has set it up so that the GPS points for town landings can be used to track and check public access points.

Budget changes – the town manager has made a couple budget changes to streamline the Marine Department.

Request for handrails for stairs at West End Lot (HAGF) – the stairs leading down now are about 10' wide and are difficult for some to navigate without handrails. DPW has agreed to do the installation, putting three rails (left, right, center), at a cost not to exceed \$7000. Rex will talk to the Disability Commission about possibly splitting the cost. Susan asked about whether the center rail might impede manual launching of a small pram or dinghy. There was general consensus that it's a good idea to install at least 2 rails, but David suggested we wait until after the Disability Commission considers that concern before issuing a recommendation for use of HAGF.

V. New Business

Don reported that the town manager has determined Rex will be the liaison for the Harbor Cte and Doug Bolanger will be the liaison for PPPC. Don will be a shared liaison between the two committees. The Harbormaster Services Agreement will land under the town's jurisdiction and will be revised by Robin, Doug, Rex and Don, after which she will send to the boards for their consideration.

Because the HM position is to be considered a town position, the town will do the advertising and posting of the job. The HM will report to the TM w/ oversight by the pier manager. Several committee members have made comments regarding the job description and Rex will forward them to Robin.

Laura has expressed confusion as to why both the harbormaster and Rex attend all the HC meetings, citing superfluous roles and inefficiency. Susan noted that it might be useful to split the attendance between the two monthly meetings. Rex suggested we should wait until the positions settle into their roles and see what the town manager recommends.

VI. Old Business: Public Hearing continued from January 22, 2020

David recused himself and Susan took over. She thanked Laura for capturing public statements in the minutes from the 1/22 hearing and distributing them immediately thereafter for consideration prior to this continued hearing. Rex reviewed the staff recommendations for each of the harbor regulations in question.

2-2-10 Mooring Permit: language now takes into account the public comments regarding working vessels accessing moorings after 11/15, allowing the HM to grant a waiver. John stated concern with the November end date and asked about the duration of a “year long” mooring permit; Rex relayed the state standards for issuance timelines. Laura moved to approve the regulation as printed in the agenda. Elise seconded. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken - John voted no. 3-1 in favor, the motion passed.

3-4-2 Wake Mitigation: language now takes into account comments received during the public hearing, and staff recommends Option 1. John asked about whether there is a plan to install a buoy based on the new regs. Rex and Don said that if the regulation passes, plans will be made to place a buoy properly. Elise moved to accept Option 1 as written in the agenda, amending it to provide for a buoy to be placed. Susan would like us to consider including language for departing vessels, not just approaching traffic, and suggested placing a camera on the HM office to track vessel speeds. Her concern is for the safety of the uninitiated user of the harbor, such as tourists on the breakwater. She also wanted the regulation to reflect traffic coming and going from the harbor. Don also supported Option 1 for a year-long test and suggested amending the motion to include language regarding inbound AND outbound traffic. Rex edited the language: “Outbound vessels will follow an inverse course and same speed.” Additional language will also include marking the route: “Additionally, a speed buoy will be installed at the half-nautical mile as shown on the chartlet.”

Elise amended her motion to include the edited language. Susan seconded. Discussion ensued, where John suggested placing a marker 100 yards east of the channel to avoid vessel collisions for the speed restriction. A roll call vote was taken. The amended motion carried 4-0.

3-4-6 Insurance Requirements: language was adjusted to accommodate input from the public hearing, including for smaller vessels and vessels with no or low-rate outboard engine horsepower. The distinction between “commercial” and “non-commercial” vessels was also dropped. Laura moved to accept the revised language as laid out in the agenda. Susan seconded. There was brief discussion. Roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 4-0.

VII. Adjourn

John moved to end this portion of the public hearing. Susan seconded. Roll call vote was taken. The motion carried 4-0 and the public hearing was ended at 6:16pm. David moved to adjourn the meeting; Susan seconded and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:18pm.

Next meeting is on Thursday, February 20, 2020