



Harbor Committee

Public Meeting

Thursday, January 16, 2020
Provincetown Town Hall, Caucus Hall Meeting Room
260 Commercial Street

Minutes

I. Meeting Called to Order at 5pm

Members present: David Flattery, Elise Cozzi, Laura Ludwig, John Santos (on the phone); excused: Susan Avellar, Wendy Loughlin. Town Staff: Rex McKinsey; Don German, Acting Harbormaster; Robin Craver, Town Manager; David Gardner, Ass't. Town Manager (arrived mid-way). Public: Alex Brown, Victory Fisheries; Carlos Verde, PPPC.

II. Elise moved to approve the minutes of January 8, 2020. Laura seconded. Roll call vote, all approved (4-0-0).

III. Public Statements

In advance of next week's public hearing on the wake mitigation regulations, Alex Brown expressed concern that the issue be taken seriously and that safety be the priority. He explained to the Town Manager that there has been an issue over the past 3-4 years when more and more boats are being used for mass transportation, throwing large wakes and putting smaller boats at risk. Past reports that he's made to the Harbormaster's office have been addressed, but not immediately, and the concern is that someone will be seriously hurt. Rex explained the recent increase in harbor use by all segments of boat traffic – recreational, transportation, aquaculture, commercial fishing.

IV. Marine Department Updates: (R. McKinsey)

Rex reviewed the annual meeting schedule in an effort to coordinate with the Pier Corp, so that members can attend each group's meetings. Pier Corp meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, so Harbor Cte will alternate and meet the 1st & 3rd Thursdays.

Chapter 91 project update – Rex & Jim Vincent drafted a letter to Rep. Peake and Sen. Cyr requesting assistance with state funding to hire a 5-year temporary Regional Planner IV position to process all of the Ch. 91 paperwork that will be generated once outreach is conducted to the property owners. Laura moved that the draft letter be forwarded to the

Town Manager for formal submission to the legislators. Elise seconded. Roll call vote was taken, all were in favor (4-0-0). Robin requested that she, Rex and Jim meet to review the finer points of the request for support.

Washington Ave. landing has been surveyed and marked with concrete marks, which are low to the ground. Rex will get a GPS coordinate for each marker so they can be re-located if they become buried.

Don reported on an “ecological mooring system” which causes less damage to the ocean floor. A similar system was used in the eelgrass beds. They have pros and cons, depending on how often they are serviced.

V. New Business:

Elise pointed out several items which are badly out of date on the town’s mooring regulation web pages. Rex will get them updated.

VI. Old Business:

A Public Hearing will be held on January 22 to solicit input on the regulation related to wake/speed restrictions in the harbor. Don made a suggestion regarding the language that it reflect “gross tonnage” (size), vs. “tons” (weight).

Discussion of Pier Corp meeting (1/14/2020) -- Elise and David attended the meeting. It was also attended by approximately 15 commercial fishermen as they discussed berthing structure and fees, and the Blue Economy. Carlos said they revised the Harbormaster job description to include recommendations made by the Harbor Cte, and noted that the description does state that the Harbormaster reports to the Town Manager. David reviewed the history of our recommendation to move the Harbormaster back under the purview of the Town Manager and suggested that posting the Harbormaster job at this time is premature, until the Select Board has determined the structure of the department. Robin clarified the role of the Harbormaster as operating under and reporting to the Town Manager, under the direction of the Pier Corp. She suggested a meeting with two members of each committee (Harbor, Pier, Shellfish) and staff to pin everything down. She will meet with the Select Board soon regarding structure of various departments including Harbormaster Services. David recommended the focus be on how to best manage the town’s harbor, as the needs may have changed over 20 years. He suggested the Harbor Management Plan may address many of the concerns; and recommended the discussion include the “marine coordinator” position. The joint meeting will take place in about three weeks. David will select two members of the committee to join that meeting.

When asked to postpone advertising the position of the Harbormaster until after that meeting, Carlos explained that they are concerned about how long the Acting Harbormaster should remain in position, and also that they are carrying the financial burden for the 295 budget still, with many decisions being held while the town only had an Acting Town Manager. Now that the Town Manager is in office they want to push it ahead quickly to resolve those two things – however, Robin requested that there be a 30-day hold so the joint committee can meet first.

Without a signed Harbormaster's Services Agreement to know who is issuing the position, the job should not be posted. David Gardner said that the Harbormaster is a town position and that the job description needs to be reviewed by administration before being posted. Robin thanked Carlos for bringing the information about the job description to the committee and for liaising between committees.

VII. David moved to adjourn; Elise seconded and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.