

Harbor Committee



Public Meeting

Date: Thursday Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Location: NOTE: THIS IS A REMOTE PARTICIPATION MEETING

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Provincetown Harbor Committee will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Provincetown website, at <https://www.provincetownma.gov/>.

For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch/listen and participate in the meeting may do so in the following manner: 1. To listen and participate in this meeting, **dial (833) 579-7589**. When prompted, enter the following conference number: **558 947 993#**. When prompted, state your name, then press #.

Please do not speak until the chair or the meeting moderator asks for public comments or questions. If possible, please mute your phone until you are called upon to speak. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Provincetown website an audio or video recording or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

MINUTES

I. Meeting Called to Order at 4:05pm

Members present: David Flattery, Laura Ludwig, John Santos, Susan Avellar, Elise Cozzi, Wendy Loughlin; Rex McKinsey, Marine Coordinator, Steve Wisbauer, Shellfish Constable, Don German, Harbormaster; Carlos Verde, Pier Corps; Members of the public: David Gluck, Leo Rose, Jeffrey Souza [13 people were on the remote meeting, some unnamed here].

Meeting was recorded by Microsoft team meeting software; these minutes supplement the recording.

David noted that the day listed on the posted agenda was listed incorrectly as Thursday the 24th (today is Wednesday, June 24th).

David recused himself for the public statements and Susan (vice chair) conducted that portion of the meeting.

Rex read the template language above, required for conducting a remote-participation meeting.

Susan called her meeting to order at 4:10pm and called member roll; all committee members were present.

II. Public Statements

David Gluck (401.5 Comm St) - wanted to thank the Harbor Committee (HC) for the work on his Chapter 91 project, making the Washington St. landing look so good and placing the public access markers. 387 Comm St (Hall Park) is really why he called in – he is a neighbor and has observed troubling and possibly destructive pedestrian activity. There is no clear access from lot to beach and people are walking wherever they like, over grass and dunes. As the town gets the park's Ch 91 license in order he hopes that public access can be addressed, as well as facilities (garbage can for doggy bags, e.g.).

Leo Rose - Floating dock issue; Pier Corp has assigned one float for shellfish harvesters, but he has only seen one boat tied there and it seems to be there 24/7. Not sure it's an issue for HC, and also unsure about how much time vessels can be at the float.

Jeff Souza – 6/25 is the date of the appeal to the Pier Corp regarding berthing rates and access, and he wondered if anyone on the HC plans to speak in favor of the local fishermen on the pier. Pier has grown so much since he was a kid, and constrictions like this are going to change it even more in the interest of making money.

Public statements closed at 4:18pm. David rejoined and headed the meeting.

III. Review/amend/approve minutes of June 4th

Elise moved to approve minutes as written; John seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken. All members in favor of minutes as issued.

IV. Member Statements

Susan wanted to inform Mr. Gluck that the Hall Park property is under the purview of the Recreation Committee for issues such as doggy bags and refuse, and that at a previous meeting the HC voted to issue Harbor Access Gift Funds (HAGF) to repair/install stairs.

In terms of aquaculture, she feels that HC ought to be involved within our purview. HC has no say on Ch. 1 of the Harbor Regulations, but any infractions there ought to be brought to the attention of the Pier Manager and Pier Corp. Aquaculture factors into the Harbor Plan and deserves separate consideration, and the HC should generate a letter of support regarding pier access. She requested that Rex draft a note of purpose reflecting the relevant elements of the Harbor Plan that can be put forth to the Pier Corp, citing the importance of the industry to the harbor.

Wendy so moved; Laura seconded and a vote was taken – Ludwig, Loughlin, Cozzi, Avellar – aye; Flattery & Santos recused themselves. The motion passed 4-0-2.

John thanked the committee for its support of the aquaculture industry and suggested that the wave attenuator begin to be used by shellfishermen, which may generate needed funds. He expressed concern that sand intrusion into the marina and pier area is significant, problematic, and needs to be addressed.

Laura discussed the Harbormaster's (PHM) role of liaison – he was designated Pier Corp/HC liaison by the Town Manager after we had already decided to send one of our members to the other's meetings, to keep the lines of communication open. She stated for the record that Rex had been doing just that in his role as PHM/Pier Manager when the Pier Corp saw fit to split that role, stating (among other things) that the PHM shouldn't have to attend all the HC meetings. Rex now attends the HC mtgs in his new Marine Coordinator role, to alleviate the pressure on the PHM. If the TM requested the PHM attend as well, it is yet another waste of town money, particularly because we also have volunteer members attending each other's meetings.

David agreed that the PHM may be again wearing too many hats and would like to clarify who he reports to.

Elise spoke to the Hall Park issue. Due to COVID, paperwork regarding the requested access stairs is stalled, but in the works.

She noted that many people who launch at the West End boat ramp are creating large wakes as they zoom out of the harbor and she'd like to have NO WAKE signs posted at the ramp.

Elise recommended we reprise the discussion of regulations for Houseboats at a future meeting.

V. Marine Department Updates

Rex provided a Chapter 91 project update including a timeline which had been provided by Jim Vincent, who will continue working on training for HC members and working w/ Community Development to prepare for Ch 91 outreach to property owners and realtors.

A spreadsheet on the Town Landing Signs (Expedition Blue) was shared. Primary and secondary signage recommendations were listed. Committee members will read through the listing and offer feedback re priorities. Laura asked if the old interpretive signs sponsored by CCS will be removed? They are faded and some are out of date. Rex said we are still trying to coordinate town landing signs with the wayfinding signage and it may be that those signs are replaced. Laura expressed concern that too many disparate signage efforts were happening concurrently – wayfinding, Ch 91 public access, town landings -- and asked that a smaller group of folks help steer the progress of the townwide effort.

Susan asked about HAGF availability and Rex said there are not a lot of funds in that account, but what is there is designated for public benefit. Town is considering all possible cost-saving mechanisms, and cuts are being made. Town Meeting will be held on 9/21 and we will have a better feel for the budget by then. Susan expressed concern that the HAGF would be mis-used.

Harbormaster update – Don announced that his role was clarified since our last meeting and he does report to the Town Manager. He does not attend all the Pier Corp meetings unless there is relevance (safety, regs). Roles are being refined and clarified.

He read through his report which had been circulated to the committee ahead of time. Regarding the public hearing on the regulations, he suggested this would be an ideal time to refine language. He agreed that Elise's suggestion to put a sign at the boat ramp would be useful.

Laura was confused by an item from the report, "The Pier Corporation is manning the front office of the HM Office to accept mooring permit and other various boat permit applications". Don clarified the Pier Corp is hiring staff, not manning the office themselves. David asked who handles the funds that come in for the kayak racks. Rex said the Pier Corp collects all the fees for racks, dinghy docks, permits, etc. to streamline cash control. Don said that due to COVID it's particularly important to only have one person handling all the fees.

VI. New Business:

Laura asked Rex to expound on regional coastal conservation efforts. A one year CZM shoreline management grant has allowed the four outer Cape towns to create an MOA for collaboration where possible on a resiliency database, coordinating around littoral cells instead of political boundaries, which may allow for better regional management to address impacts from climate change. The Phase I effort was so successful that CZM asked for a presentation at their recent staff meeting. The report has implications for public safety and cultural resources. Provincetown will be the host grantee for a second two-year Phase II grant, which will flesh out the mapping/layering system, working w/ Center for Coastal Studies.

David asked if the sand accretion issues in the harbor are being addressed as part of that collaboration. Rex said it's in motion but Army Corps has questions and needs more sediment testing done. DPW is considering design work for the Ryder St. outfall, and the sand may come into play there. The fact that a private marina is involved is also a complication for dredging.

VII. Old Business:

Wendy will attend the PC meeting tomorrow 6/25 @ 2pm.

Next HC meeting tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 15 at 4pm.

VII. John moved to Adjourn; Susan seconded. Roll vote was taken and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30.