



Public Meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 5:00pm

Location: NOTE: THIS IS A REMOTE PARTICIPATION MEETING

Minutes

This virtual meeting was recorded (audio) and Rex McKinsey opened the meeting by reading the template language regarding town committee meetings during COVID.

I. Meeting Called to Order at 5:03pm

Members present: Laura Ludwig, Susan Avellar (vice Chair conducting meeting), Wendy Loughlin, Elise Cozzi, John Santos. Members excused: David Flattery. Don German, Harbormaster. Rex McKinsey, Marine Coordinator. Jim Vincent, Ch. 91 Consultant. Lory Santos, general public.

II. Review/amend/approve minutes from July 15, 2020

Postponed due to late circulation

III. Public Statements

Lory Santos discussed the wake situation at Long Point, noting the new route and speed restrictions have not improved the situation in the back harbor or the inner harbor. She has contacted the HM office several times. The vessel captains state that they are following the new regs exactly. Because the boats are so large and throw so much water, the momentum still generates huge impacts. She'd like the committee to reconsider the original proposal that was considered, which was to reduce speed at the bell buoy.

IV. Member Project Updates

None (see department updates for Groyne project)

V. Marine Department Updates

Chapter 91 -- Jim Vincent reported that he is on the 4th iteration of the Ch91 project draft training manual, spending time and effort to make it very user-friendly for the

committee. Categories he's prioritizing for clarity include amnesty, Commonwealth vs. private tidelands, historic MHW line, a simplified definition of Ch91, and which properties require licenses. He is also looking at what the role of this committee is with the process of reviewing licenses and outreach. There will be a training for committee members, in person when it becomes possible, but virtually prior to that. He will send us pieces of the manual as they are generated to get our feedback as it's finalized.

On the topic of meeting in person, Wendy asked whether we could begin to do so as people become more comfortable with safe gatherings (masked, distanced, outdoors). Rex reported that the town is investigating the possibility, with the ability for general public to attend remotely.

Groynes project update -- Cape Cod Excavating did a great job erecting the plinths (marker rocks) at the head of nine (9) groynes in the far East end, funded by HAGF (\$3600); six (6) remain to be erected. Elise moved to recommend to the Select Board that they approve an amount not to exceed \$2400 from the HAGF to complete the project; Wendy seconded the motion. Laura asked whether the work will withstand a large blow and suggested waiting for a winter season to see how these new ones stand up under bad conditions before erecting the remainder in the same manner. Rex reported that he observed their methods and the construction seems sufficiently robust. Roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0-0.

Harbor dredging -- the Pier Manager (Doug) is working with the engineers on it.

Don delivered the Harbormaster report he'd distributed to the committee members regarding Marine Ops, tropical storms, personal watercraft, etc. Laura said she had observed fishermen dumping a tuna head overboard at the pier. Don said there is a policy that nothing should be dumped and that we report it if we see it. It's not always possible to have pier staff at the loading cranes to educate fishermen from out of town. Susan asked if boats from away pay a fee for off-loading fish; Don said there is a 25\$ fee. HM office tries to assist the Pier Corp in collecting that fee.

Rex reported that the warrant for Town Meeting (9/21) is in draft form and ready to go out soon. There are 3 articles this committee may want to comment on.

He also said that typically a board will vote for officers at the beginning of the new season, which we may want to do next month.

Fireworks was to be discussed at a future HC meeting, but the town has determined none will be held for First Light at New Years so we have time to address it in the new year.

VI. Old Business

Houseboats regulations discussion -- Elise culled info from on-line sources and distributed a summary of it to the committee. She recommends we first make a definition of what a "houseboat" really is, given that there are many different approaches to it all around the country. Members will consider the information sent around to have more of a discussion next time. If a "houseboat sub-committee" meets, it would be posted and an agenda would be issued. The public process is important for this issue to solicit input as we investigate the issue. Don offered to assist with the process.

VII. Members Additional Comments

Elise applauded the HM office for enforcing speed restrictions in the harbor.

VIII. Adjourn

John moved to adjourn; Elise seconded and all were in favor (roll call vote). Meeting adjourned at 6:04pm.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September. 2nd, 2020 at 5pm.