



Remote Public Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Rescheduled from September 16th

Minutes

I. Meeting Called to Order at 5pm

Members present: Laura Ludwig, Elise Cozzi, Wendy Loughlin, David Flattery (Chair), Susan Avellar, John Santos; Don German, Harbormaster; Rex McKinsey, Marine Coordinator; Steve Wisbauer, Shellfish Constable. Lory Santos, general public.

II. Review/amend/approve minutes

Minutes from the September 2nd meeting were attached for review. Elise moved to accept the minutes as written. Roll call vote was taken and all were in favor. 5-0-0

III. Public Statements

none

IV. Members Project Updates

Groyne project is not quite complete yet. All those in the East end are re-installed, but our request to allocate additional funds from the HAGF for the remainder has yet to be forwarded to the Select Board.

Expedition Blue wayfinding/signage development is still in progress. Rex is working on descriptions – there is a lot of information to convey in a finite amount of space.

V. Marine Department Updates: (McKinsey/German)

Breakwater hazards – Don reported on recent injury and “rescue” that was required during high winds and tides. Flyer’s and firefighters responded for a successful rescue.

An individual with a large wooden boat has not paid his mooring fee. And, because he also hasn’t paid excise tax, a permit can’t be issued regardless. There is no mechanism in place to force the owner to pay the excise tax and thereby receive the mooring permit. Last year the boat remained all winter and Don suspects it may remain there this year as well. Is there a way the town could put a lien on the vessel? Susan suggested talking to town manager and counsel. Regarding insurance, vessels at the pier must present certificate of insurance; but insurance isn’t required yet for mooring permits.

Rex reported that the outer Cape shoreline resiliency committee has received a sizable grant from CZM to continue that collaborative effort (see his written report).

The town’s Hazard Mitigation Plan is being updated through a public input process to review successes and identify future priorities.

Shellfish department is pursuing an expansion of the grant process, working with the state to fulfill requirements. “Danger” buoys will be installed soon to define the grant area.

VI. New Business:

Member concerns re: trash blowing into the harbor. Laura reported that she has received complaints regarding overloaded trash barrels, and that barrels are not emptied in a timely manner. Wendy pointed out that this issue has been going on for months. Wendy made the motion to bring the matter to the attention of the Select Board and to ask the Pier Corp to address the issue of garbage handling on the pier and John seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Elise volunteered to ask the DPW how they’re handling it before sending it up the chain. John said the Pier Corp had contracted with Roderick’s to handle the pier’s trash and that DPW hasn’t been picking it up. Don reported that there are 3 approaches to trash pick-ups on the pier: green barrels are handled by DPW and they handle the “tourist trash”. To help alleviate the problem of overburdened barrels, they contracted w/ Roderick to provide cans on the East side of the pier for the commercial fleet. Excursion boats are responsible for their own receptacles.

Carlos was asked to describe the situation. He reported Pier Corp is not in charge of the trash; the DPW is supposed to care of the trash. PC has been trying to get DPW to make more stops there with no results. PC hired Rodericks to alleviate the issue, and all barrels are tended/emptied. He agreed with our motion to bring the issue to the Select Board's attention.

Roll call vote was taken. All members were in favor of the motion. 5-0-0 Rex will prepare the letter for the Chair's signature.

Laura asked about the Pier Corp public hearing scheduled for October 15th. Carlos reported that the Harbor Regulations in question pertain to definitions of "commercial fisherman" in Chapter 1. It will also strive to clarify the references to and roles of Harbormaster v. Pier Manager.

There was a lot of discussion in social media forums after the breakwater accident this weekend (broken ankle, rescue), and Gordon Peabody suggested posting a photo of the breakwater at high tide to help people relate to the danger/risk involved. We will ask Gordon to bring visual suggestions to a future meeting.

Elise asked Cody (Water Dept. Superintendent) about installing a wash down hose at the West End Boat Ramp. Committees might also help fund it. Susan suggested that installing a hose may create traffic jams and also burden the town's water supply.

VII. Old Business:

Houseboats discussion continued. Elise reported that she and Wendy toured the houseboat mooring field with Don to help define the area. They generated a polygon that essentially encompasses the existing moorings and allows for 3-4 additional moorings. Susan pointed out that we are a harbor of refuge, some boats have storm moorings in that area, and it is very important to ensure that boats can access a safe refuge when needed. Rex confirmed that houseboat moorings are indeed the purview of the Harbormaster, but so that it doesn't become a divisive situation he suggested the determination should be shared with the Select Board. Don thinks a regulation should be made to define a "houseboat" to make determinations clearer, to avoid conflicts with enforcing their placement.

Regarding vessel insurance – Elise suggested that instead of regulating based on length, the town base it on whether there is a motor on it, regardless of length or size. Discussion ensued about how to proceed. Susan reminded us that on 2/20/20 we were going to hold a public hearing about this very thing. She reviewed the

regulation proposed at that time, which outlined length requirements. Elise said that in her review of other marinas and harbors, the requirements were not hinged on length and that we may want to revisit our recommendation.

Rex clarified that we did have a duly advertised public hearing on this topic and received feedback; the Select Board elected to not include it in their agenda back then, when meetings were forced to go virtual. We did adjust the language re insurance to accommodate expressed concerns, but if we change the language now, it will require starting all over again. There's a sliding scale of damage, and we should stick with original recommendations to cover that scale. We should remind the board of what those were, and then have the Select Board offer a public hearing on the regulation changes. Elise made a motion to re-send the letter drafted in February to the Select Board and that they hold a public hearing to approve the regulation changes recommended by the Harbor Committee. Susan seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken; all were in favor and the motion passed 5-0-0.

VII. Susan moved to adjourn; Laura seconded. Roll vote was taken and meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.

Next tentatively scheduled meeting Oct 7.