

**Provincetown Public Pier Corporation (PPPC)
Judge Welsh Hearing Room
Meeting Minutes of
Thursday, September 9, 2004**

Present: Lee Ash, George Hitchcock, John Baldwin, and Chip Bradish

Excused Absence: Paul deRuyter

Other Attendees: Rex McKinsey, Pier Manager, and Chief of Police Ted Meyer

George Hitchcock, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05.

Public Statements

1. Commercial Dockage Fees

George Hitchcock asked for public statements regarding Commercial Dockage Fees.

Fran Coco of 10 Aunt Sukey's Way spoke on behalf of herself and her husband John Browne, a commercial fisher. She was concerned with the definition of 'commercial fisher.' She read a written statement (which was placed in the file).

Bernard Nunes, a Commercial Lobster Fisherman, asked about the definitions of dedicated commercial fisher and dedicated commercial vessel. Rex McKinsey responded with the definition and Lee Ash clarified it.

Steve Webber, Executive Director of Profish, stated that the definitions are too "iffy." He said there are many holes in them. He also stated that the rates are overcharged.

Rachael White questioned the definition of recreational boating as opposed to business boating.

Phil Michaud questioned the 60% of the open rate.

David Dutra stated that it seemed that the direction of the Pier Corp is for the fishermen to be off the Pier in 3 years. Basically, he stated, that the Pier Corp has caused high costs to fishermen.

Mr. Webber (Profish) asked that the fees not be raised now. He asked to use the winter months to see what happens. He also said that it was illegal to increase the fees before there was a public hearing that was scheduled for April 1, 2004. Rex McKinsey replied that bills were sent out at last year's rate. The bills had a note stated that the rates were preliminary and based on what happens at this Public Hearing.

General discussions between members of the public and members of the Pier Corp ensued.

Kurt Schmidt, a lobster fisherman, questioned if the fishermen were being subsidized by the Town according to the Town Manager.

Luis Ribas and Jean Frottier made statements against the costs and the Pier Corp.

Michelle Couture of the Board of Selectmen made a statement that there is pressure on the Pier Corp and the needs of the fishermen. She suggested that the Pier Corp take more time and sit down with the fishermen on an informal basis and the Pier Corp members should listen to the people who will be impacted.

Shirley Gomes, Representative, wanted to ensure a continuance of the fishing fleet for Provincetown that is in trouble due to the raising of rates. She feels that Provincetown would be losing its reputation as a fishing port.

George Hitchcock then closed the Public Statements portion of the meeting. Lee Ash stated that if more time were

needed, she would be for it. Mr. Hitchcock felt that a sub-committee of the Pier Corp would be needed to sit down and confer with the fishermen.

A motion was made to approve the present rates for the period July 1, 2004 to March 30, 2005 and continue the public hearing to the October 7th meeting in order to have more conversations with the tenants and refine the definitions.

Moved by: Chip Bradish

Seconded by: Lee Ash

Yea: 3 Nay: 0

John Baldwin had stepped down from this portion of the meeting.

Joel Glasser left for another committee meeting and Pier Manager Rex McKinsey continued the minutes.

The Director's discussed the options and asked questions of the audience. Mr. Webber referred to the Pro-fish tier system and Mr. McKinsey responded that the Pro-fish tier system was designed to rank berth assignments and had nothing to do with rates.

Discussion turned to other issues with the directors: The directors would like the Chair to have a regular agenda item for Director's statements and would like a status update on the floating docks at the next meeting. Discussion ensued regarding a need to a general public relations plan for the pier.

Motion to create a sub-committee of Mr. Bradish and Ms. Lee to work on a public relations plan to explain our mission.

Motion: Bradish

Second: Baldwin

Vote: 4-0

Mr. Baldwin discussed the relationship between the Pier Manager job description and Marine Superintendent description and requested more information on qualifications, resume' etc. Chief Meyer commented on the work done to date. Mr. Baldwin also reported on his discussion with Richard Roach of the Army Corp. of Engineers regarding adjacent waters under federal control and the courtesy float.

Motion to adjourn at 6 PM. Motion: Baldwin

Second: Bradish

Vote:4-0