



## Provincetown Public Pier Corporation

# Minutes

The Provincetown Public Pier Corporation Meeting of Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 3:00pm via Teleconference.

**Members Present:** Scott Fraser (SF); Herbie Hintze (HH); Jamie Staniscia (JS).

**Absent:** Carlos Verde (CV).

**Other Attendees:** Doug Boulanger (DB), Pier Manager; Jamie Demetriou (JD), Office Manager; Don German, Harbormaster (DG).

**Members from the Public:** Laura Ludwig, Harbor Committee Liaison (LL).

SF gaveled the session in at 3:01pm.

DB read the policy for Virtual Meetings in Provincetown Under the Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, signed March 12, 2020 by the Governor.

**Agenda** (Discussion may ensue, votes may be taken)

### Public Comments

None, but see attached letter from the Select Board of Truro sent to the Select Board of Provincetown and CC'd the PPPC.

### Review & Approval of Minutes

HH motion to approve the minutes of 2/24/2021 and 3/08/2021; JS seconded. Passed 3-0.

### Office Manager Report

JD: Auditors finished in 1 day (normally takes 3). Trap shed applications are starting to come in; contracts will be sent out soon. Permitting will open April 15 for Kayak, Beached Boats, and Dinghy Dock. As soon as we get the 2021 stickers, I will number all the Kayak racks from Washington to the Provincetown Inn. Third payment from FEMA/MEMA should

be headed to Town Hall this week. The Attenuator project closeout paperwork will be completed this week and final payment will follow.

SF: Noted that excursion fees seem to not be allocated into the correct categories in QuickBooks. JD will speak with Lisa (Accountant) about this, as well. SF: Also surprised at the current FY P&L. Have there been any adjustments made yet regarding recording revenues in the proper FY? JD: Accountants are looking into this, as well. SF: Would also like to have JD revisit the accounting project; will work with JD about this next week.

#### Pier Manager Report

DB: Winkler is gearing up to mobilize in the next couple of weeks to begin installation at 7W for the Dolphin Fleet and repairs to the Transportation Floats as well the two additional pilings at 10W and the courtesy float as discussed in our last meeting. Seasonal job postings will go live by the end of this week. Dock renewal applications are going out on Monday. MSA review and discussion with SB penciled in for the beginning of April. Year-to-date Financial review per page 3 of the MOU should take place in May.

HH: Where are the job applications posted? DB: Town HR posts in the Banner, The Independent, and Social Media. HH: Are they going to look into partnering with the Merchant Marine Academy (which was done last year). DB to make sure Town HR will do that again this year.

JS: Re: MOU—can DB put together some kind of document for us to have so that we are prepared prior to meeting with the Select Board for this? DB: Working on it.

SF: Re: Winkler project—Want to make sure that we haven't done anything to 7W that prevents the work from being done on them. DB: Agreed, which is why I've asked for a specific schedule from Winkler. HH noted that Bay State Ferry won't be starting until the middle of May.

JS: Has there been any activity on the Cavalo? DB: Working with the broker on this. Hoping to get a better answer as to its status in the next 1-2 weeks. JS: Also, we need to work on improving the conditions of the T, especially towards the end of it. There are a lot of things accumulating down there. SF asked that this issue be added to the next meeting. DB: It's a topic, yes, and it needs to be cleaned up, but once we get staff we can get a dumpster and get it cleaned.

#### Harbormaster Report

DG: March 17<sup>th</sup>, DB and I are presenting the Harbormaster 295 budget. Also, a year ago December we had a joint meeting with the Harbor Committee to determine best how to work together. There have been some touchy moments between the Boards and the liaisons. To make that work a little better, we should establish protocols between the two Boards.

JS: Protocols between the two Boards would be a good idea.

HH: I agree, it should be a standing item on both of our Boards' meeting agendas.

DG: Carlos Verde was the liaison to the Harbor Committee. Since he will no longer be a PPPC Director, we should definitely pick someone to replace him.

SF: Regarding hiring: It would be nice if we could find people with both boat experience as well as operational experience. DG: Town gets all of the applications. Operations applications go to DB; and Asst Harbormaster applications go to DG. We will coordinate on these applications, keeping in mind the others' needs and possible applicants with cross-over skills.

SF: Regarding MSA: Our agreement right now is year-to-year. The budget has been presented to the Town, the Select Board, and is now to go in front of the finance committee.

DB: DG and I are working on the summer schedules.

#### New Business

JS: Is there any update on scheduling a meeting with the Select Board re: the rate increases?

SF: We should wait / defer the Select Board meeting re: the rate increases until we have the new PPPC Board meetings.

HH: I will be, for now, the Harbor Committee liaison.

SF: For the new Board members, we should reach out to them individually to see if they have any questions, get them up to speed, etc. Are there big issues that they would like to or should get involved in, i.e., dependent upon their skill sets?

JS: I agree with SF's idea.

#### Harbor Committee Liaison

LL: Appreciates PPPC bringing up the Liaison topic and the T trash topic, as well. Brought up project with signage out on the Pier. DB to finalize the details and relay to the PPPC. LL to submit a proposal for more funds, which could help with funding for trash removal.

LL: I am passionate about the Pier and the Harbor, and I am thinking I will withdraw my application from the pool of candidates to sit on the PPPC Board so that I can continue doing the work that I am doing.

HH made motion to adjourn at 4:23pm; JS seconded. Passed 3-0.

Respectfully Yours,  
T. Jason Brown



# TOWN OF TRURO

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March 9, 2021

Provincetown Select Board  
260 Commercial Street  
Provincetown, MA 02657

Dear Members of the Provincetown Select Board,

We write today to urge you to consider the direct and indirect impacts of the Provincetown Pier Corporation's proposed fee increases. These increases will have a detrimental impact on the dock tenants, their crews, the families of those individuals and the broader community and local economy.

As you are aware, Provincetown boasts a two hundred-fifty-million-dollar tourism industry annually and has a history deeply rooted in the Blue Economy, which continues to grow with increased Harbor and Pier activity.<sup>1</sup> The fishing industry in Provincetown provides direct benefits to the community in the form of jobs for local residents and a food source for the greater community. The Blue Economy in Barnstable, Dukes Nantucket and Plymouth Counties encompasses 12% of jobs and 11% of gross revenue.<sup>2</sup> The indirect benefits of the industry are less tangible but arguably as important. The local fishing industry is a critical part of the local food services industry—the number one employment industry in Provincetown<sup>3</sup>, and a major source of economic dollars and meals tax dollars. The fishing industry also receives economic credits based on the value of the catch, which provides crucial dollars for dredging and infrastructure of the Pier. Provincetown is ranked the seventh in the Massachusetts in highest “ex-vessel value” (value of catch).<sup>4</sup> The impacts of the fishing industry are far-reaching and vital to Provincetown and beyond.

To that end, it is imperative to protect the fishing industry in this area. Data is not yet available to demonstrate the impact that COVID-19 has had on the fishing industry, but anecdotal reports note that the closure of restaurants has significantly impacted the value of the catch, resulting in deleterious effects to our local fishing fleets. To propose a nearly fifty percent rate increase for dockage fees would push these local fleets into further economic ruin. The Truro Select Board understands the importance of charging fees to offset the Pier's operational costs, however, the Board feels strongly that an appropriate analysis of Pier operations could be completed over the next 12 to 24 months and a fee increase plan could be developed to gradually increase fees over a number of years. A 12- to 24- month moratorium on fee increases would also provide the dock tenants with time to adjust to the COVID-19 impacts, make changes to their own business plans and prepare for future fee increases.

Over the years, fishermen have moved from Provincetown to Truro because of the relative affordability of Truro compared to Provincetown. There are no less than 24 commercial fishermen who own vessels docked at MacMillan Pier that are owned by Truro property-owners, some with more than one vessel. There are no less than six eco-tourism business and charter vessels docked at MacMillian Pier that also fall into this category. In addition, there are even more commercial and eco-tourism vessels owned by Truro residents who rent their property in Truro that are docked at MacMillan Pier. There are many crew members, as well as eco- tourism

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.provincetown-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12966/Tourism-Economy-Report-CY-2019-Final?bidId=>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.capecodcommission.org/our-work/harbor-study/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://provincetown-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8905/Economic-Conditions---UMass-Dartmouth-Report>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.mass.gov/doc/draft-report-port-by-port-profiles-and-analysis-of-the-massachusetts-commercial-fishery/download?\\_ga=2.226665685.930307975.1614786212-1933361823.1570452321](https://www.mass.gov/doc/draft-report-port-by-port-profiles-and-analysis-of-the-massachusetts-commercial-fishery/download?_ga=2.226665685.930307975.1614786212-1933361823.1570452321)

employees, and their families, who live in Truro. It is estimated that approximately 40% of the vessels docked in Provincetown are owned by Truro residents, which means that the proposed change to remove Truro from the Town of Provincetown Harbor Regulations and Mooring Rules and Regulations 1-1-3 would impact approximately 40% of the dock tenants. Maintaining Truro's inclusion in the definition of "Provincetown-Based Vessels" helps to ensure that individuals who live in Truro can continue to have priority in docking at the Provincetown Harbor. Pamet Harbor does not have the deep water necessary for the commercial fishing vessels that dock in Provincetown. We hope that the regulations will not change and that Truro remains in the definition so that these individuals who are often one generation in a long line of Provincetown fisherman can continue to have priority at the nearest deep water dock, Provincetown Pier.

We ask that you consider the following three actions requested by the Truro Select Board: 1) Institute a moratorium on dockage increases for 12- 24 months; 2) Maintain the inclusion of Truro in the definition of "Provincetown-Based Vessels" in the Town of Provincetown Harbor Regulations and Mooring Rules and Regulations 1-1-3; and 3) Include Truro representation in Provincetown Pier Corporation's decision making processes.

Finally, the Truro Select Board respectfully requests that Truro be represented in the Provincetown Pier Corporation meetings. As 40% of the dock tenants, and integral partners in the local economy and local housing area, it seems fitting for a Truro resident to be included in the Pier Corporation's decision-making, either as a liaison or as a full-member of the Corporation. A Truro resident may help provide feedback that would assist the Corporation in obtaining support from the dockage tenants.

The Truro Select Board acknowledges the difficult decisions that are required of the Provincetown Select Board and the Provincetown Pier Corporation. We appreciate your consideration of our requests and the collaborative relationship between Provincetown and Truro throughout our history. We would be happy to meet collectively or to send a representative of the Truro Select Board to attend one of your future meetings so that these issues can be further discussed.

Respectfully,  
The Truro Select Board



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Robert Weinstein, Chair



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Kristen Reed, Vice-Chair



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Susan Areson, Clerk



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Janet Worthington



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Stephanie Rein

Cc: Provincetown Public Pier Corporation