

ROCKPORT HARBOR COMMITTEE

Rockport Town Office

January 26, 2010

5:00 PM

MINUTES

Chairman Taylor Allen
Robert Tassi
Sharilyn Morton
Jeff Brow
Josh Brow
Gerald Robinson
Town Manager Robert Peabody
Select Person Sani Fogel

Joel Powers
Bruce Dodge
Scott Lermond
David Ward
Gray Hanna
Mrs. Jack Wood
Harbormaster Abbie Leonard

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Allen opened the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 10, 2009 MINUTES

Mr. Tassi motioned to approve the minutes of December 10, 2009. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morton and passed 5-0.

2. FISHERMAN'S LEASE

Josh Brow said Oyster River Lobster was approached two (2) years ago and asked to locate to the Rockport Marine Park. The company would provide fuel and bait, loading and unloading lobsters and support for the fishermen. The J.C. Wood Lobster Company, Inc. has operated on this site for the past 17 years.

Thirteen licensed fishermen signed a petition in favor of leasing the Town site to Oyster River Lobster. Danny Dodge and Gordon Best offered verbal support for this change. Fishermen spoke of: not being assisted by J.C. Wood employees in removing traps and crates of lobsters, problems with the hoist, and a fisherman being injured using the Wood hoist.

Mr. Dodge noted the commercial hoist cannot be used because it is not in a convenient location for the fishermen.

Josh Brow indicated the company would prefer to use electricity if possible for their hoist but is open to using a gas generator. Oyster River Lobster would pay any electrical bills. The current lease is \$100 per year. Oyster River Lobster proposes to pay a lease fee of \$250 for the first year, \$500 for (a one time) attorney's fees, and \$350 for ensuing years.

Fuel is currently provided to the holding tank by Pen Bay Oil.

Jeff and Josh Brow agreed to assist the lobstermen in removing traps and to keep the area clean.

Oyster River Lobster will be available at the harbor during the fishing season.

Mr. Tassi motioned to recommend to the Select Board that Oyster River Lobster be allowed to have a two (2) year lease to lease a portion of Marine Park. The motion was seconded by Mr. Powers.

Mrs. Morton suggested keeping communication open between the fishermen, Harbormaster and Oyster River Lobster. Mr. Tassi added to 'make this motion with no personal prejudice to one side or the other.' Mr. Allen added there was no personal prejudice from the Harbor Committee as well. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Hanna said the float skirt is too high off the water. Smaller skiffs become caught and are sometimes totaled from being underneath the float. He spoke with Steve Beveridge who recommended a hard rubber "skirt" be attached to the float to prevent this problem. Mr. Hanna noted the skirting has not been attached yet. He offered to assist the Harbormaster in completing the project in 2010.

3. DESIGNATED ANCHORAGE

The Harbormaster reported correspondence from the Coast Guard indicates a designated mooring field cannot be located in Clam Cove Harbor because a cable line, owned by Fox Island Cable, was installed in the cove where the proposed transient anchorage location would be located. The cable would not preclude moorings but could only sustain approximately 15. Brewster Point Subdivision would be eligible to use some of the moorings.

Mr. Allen pointed out there would be no adverse impact on lobstermen. Lobster traps could be located outside of the inner harbor.

A transient boat would not be precluded from anchoring.

Ms. Leonard will apply for designated anchorage in the main mooring field.

Two (2) zones will be divided by the channel. A line will be drawn from Lowell Rock west to the mainland

Mr. Tassi recommended a mooring not pass the 15' line for Brewster Point. This would allow larger vessels to freely navigate the harbor without obstruction from a mooring field.

This matter will be placed on the next agenda for further discussion. Brewster Point will be notified of the meeting.

Further discussion of a designated harbor field policy will also be placed on the next agenda

4. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

- a. Billing for moorings has been mailed to mooring owners.
- b. Ms. Leonard reported the river section of the harbor is on the list of the Army Corps of Engineers for a dredging assessment in the spring of 2010. Mr. Dodge inquired whether the

ledge in the river could be addressed as well. The Harbormaster said federal funds could possibly be used for removing the ledge.

- c. Ms. Leonard's proposed budget is 8.4% less than the current budget but did include three (3) projects: \$1,200 to purchase radar for the harbormaster's boat; \$800 for sheetrock, flooring, paint and minimal furniture for an upstairs office in the Harbormaster's Building; and new dinghy floats, approximately 6' x 20' for the river. The floats would cost an estimated \$32 per foot purchased or \$22 per foot constructed in-house.

Mr. Peabody explained the budget process. The Select Board Chair directed the Town Manager to request the Department Heads prepare three (3) budgets for Select Board review: 0%, 10% reduction and 20% reduction. Ms. Leonard pointed out the 0% budget would not include the three (3) proposed projects and personnel would need to be cut to meet a 20% reduction. The Harbor Committee will review the final harbor budget and make recommendations to Harbormaster.

The Town Manager said the Select Board has discussed the Town budget make up the shortfall from the State.

It was a consensus of the Harbor Committee to support the budget presented at this meeting.

Mr. Dodge offered a day of work on a weekend for the Harbormaster's office.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Mr. Tassi will be unable to meet his goal of having the Schooner Timberwind self contained in 2010. He questioned whether a grant is available for historic vessels. Ms. Leonard will forward information to Mr. Tassi regarding his request.
- b. The Committee discussed parking problems at the Harbor.
- c. Parking and gear removal clauses will be added to Oyster River Lobster's lease.
- d. The Harbormaster will hold an open forum for fishermen before fishing season begins.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next Harbor Committee meeting will be held on March 16th, at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

7. ADJOURN

Mr. Tassi motioned to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morton and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody V. Sainio
Recording Secretary

