

# ROCKPORT HARBOR COMMITTEE

Rockport Town Office

January 11, 2011

5:15 PM

## MINUTES

Chairman Robert Tassi  
Joel Powers  
Harbormaster Abbie Leonard

Taylor Allen  
Sharilyn Morton  
Town Manager Robert Peabody

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- a. The meeting was called to order at 5:19 p.m.

### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Mr. Allen motioned to accept the minutes of December 2, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morton and passed 4-0.

### 2. PROPOSED DOWNTOWN TIF DEVELOPMENT PLAN -

#### Bob Peabody & Tom Ford

- a. Mr. Peabody explained the downtown TIF district. TIF comprises two (2) parts –approval of the district and approval of the development program. Rockport voters approved the TIF District and Development Plan which was sent to DECD for final approval. Funds are already set aside for properties in the proposed TIF district. A TIF does not raise or lower the Town's taxes.

Preliminary DECD approval was withdrawn after a Rockport citizen raised the issue of the sequence in which information was given.

- b. The 23 yr old septic system at Public Works has failed. Water from the on-site well cannot be used as drinking water. The small industrial park does not have a fire hydrant but has a pond. The estimated cost of \$140,000 to extend the sewer to Public Works and the Industrial Park could be taken from the TIF fund.
- c. The Downtown TIF District consists of three (3) tiers: Tier I – projects within the immediate district; Tier II – Improvements made outside but related to the District; and Tier III – Community-Wide Municipal Investments. Mr. Ford developed the work line which is designed to reach out to the public. Information will be provided to voters during three (3) upcoming informational TIF meetings.
- d. The Municipal TIF Investment Plan (Tier I) includes restoration of the Goose River Sea Wall (\$70,000 est.), Harbor Park Improvements (\$175,000 est.), dredging of Rockport Harbor (\$50,000 est.) and restoration of the Lime Kilns (\$150,000 est.).

- e. Tier II sidewalks will be included in the second proposal. The sidewalks will be extended from Russell Avenue to the Town line with Camden.
- f. Tier III will seek funds for the development and marketing of the opera house.
- g. The Select Board goal is to put the harbor dredging project before voters this year
- h. Mr. Tassi motioned to give a vote of approval to the four (4) capital improvement projects as among the long term goals for the harbor. The motion was seconded by Mr. Powers and passed 4-0.

### **3. REVIEW MARINE AND STORAGE FEES**

- a. Marine and storage fees were discussed at length. A meeting will be held to review the proposed fee changes. The Harbormaster will submit the budget tomorrow but could amend the budget at a later date if necessary.

Revenue projections will be provided at the next meeting.

- b. Rockport Marine currently holds 48 of the Town's moorings. The moorings are rented, as a service, to customers of the company.

### **4. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT**

There was no further discussion.

### **5. NEXT MEETING**

The next Harbor Committee meeting will be held on Jan. 19th at 5:15 p.m. at the Rockport Town Office.

### **6. ADJOURN**

The Harbor Committee adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody V. Sainio  
Recording Secretary