

ROCKPORT HARBOR COMMITTEE

Rockport Town Office

April 13, 2010

5:00 PM

MINUTES

Chairman Taylor Allen
Robert Tassi
Sharilyn Morton
Harbormaster Abbie Leonard

Joel Powers
Bruce Dodge
Select Person Sani Fogel
Town Manager Robert Peabody

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Allen opened the meeting at 5: 07 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 26, 2010 MINUTES

Mr. Tassi motioned to approve the minutes of January 26, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morton and passed 5-0.

Clam Cove will not have designated anchorage because of the underwater cable line.

2. FISHERMAN'S REQUEST FOR MOORING EXTENSION

The Harbormaster reported a local fisherman has unpaid mooring fees for 2008 and 2009 totaling \$900. Partial payments have been made. Ms. Leonard made a plea for hardship on the fisherman's behalf. She asked if the mooring should be dropped to the ocean floor.

Mrs. Morton pointed out the timing for the fees presents a hardship for the fishermen. She suggested changing the due date of mooring fees from April to June when the fishermen are again working.

After much discussion, Mrs. Morton motioned to recommend the Town Manager and Harbormaster make a payment plan with the fisherman. This would be a one time arrangement with an ending date of November 30, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tassi and passed 5-0.

This matter will be placed on the next agenda. The Harbormaster will ascertain if other mooring holders are delinquent in paying their fees.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Radar will be installed on the Harbormaster's boat. A line will be overdrawn to cover the expenses.

b. The railroad engine has been moved from Marine Park to Art Henry's facility in Thomaston for repair. The 13 ton engine could not be left in place and repaired because of the liability to the Town. The estimated cost to move and repair the engine by Mr. Henry is \$3,500.

4. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

a. Ms. Leonard previously proposed installing 16' x 20' floats for dinghy access. The floats could be constructed by: Custom Floats; Public Works; volunteers; or the project put out to bid. Two (2) pilings could be replaced when the floats are installed.

The Harbormaster will ascertain if this type of project must go out to bid. This matter will be placed on the next agenda.

b. The Select Board agreed to purchase one (1) section of float and two (2) tri-hull rowing dinghies for public use. \$8,500 is available for the purchase. A fee will be discussed for this endeavor. Persons using a dinghy would be required to sign a waiver.

c. The Harbor is dredged on a 20 to 25 year cycle. The Army Corps of Engineers will not provide federal funds for dredging projects if a Town charges different fees for residents and non-residents using the Harbor. Mr. Allen recommended contacting Gary Neville from Prock Marine to clarify this information.

d. Rockport Marine will hold a boat launching on May 15th.

5. MARINE PARK RENTAL FEE DISCUSSION

a. The Harbormaster is working towards making Harbor Park self sufficient. Parking is an issue. Mrs. Morton recommended establishing a separate fee schedule for the use of Harbor Park. This issue will be placed on the next agenda.

b. There is approximately 520 linear feet of boat storage. Winter boat storage fees in Rockport are \$10 per foot. Ms. Leonard suggested raising the boat storage fee to \$15 per linear foot. The tri-maran stored at the Harbor uses the space of three (3) boats for storage purposes. Mr. Allen recommended charging a storage fee for length times the beam of the vessel.

A letter will be mailed to boat owners if the fee schedule is changed.

6. OTHER BUSINESS – continued

c. Mr. Allen said it was his understanding Mrs. Zimbalist gave waterfront property to the Town for use by the residents. The Harbormaster will research this matter and report at the next meeting.

d. Public Works has been doing maintenance work at the Harbor since recent storms have undermined the sea wall.

- e. The walking bridge needs to be repaired.
- f. The floats by the Boat Club are separating. The float configuration will be changed and the Town will provide the hardware for the catwalk. The Boat Club cannot encroach on the fishermen's side of the float.

The Boat Club floats will be placed on April 10th. Assistance will be given by the Public Works Department. The Harbormaster will notify Bob Baldwin of the float placement.

- g. The Harbormaster reported that Gray Hanna installed rubber "belting" on the outside of the floats. This will block the gaps and act as a buffer.

- h. Mr. Dodge recommended creating parking spaces by filling and paving the fishermen's site from the corner of Rockport Marine's wharf to the Town's pilings. Mr. Allen offered to pay 20% of the cost if the Town pays 80%. He questioned if this type of earthwork could be tied in to a dredging project. Mr. Allen also mentioned a possible seawall on the site.

The Harbormaster will research the suggestion. This matter will be placed on the next agenda.

- h. Doreen Duke (Queenie's Weenies) lunch wagon will be placed on the next agenda. She is requesting permission to locate a lunch wagon at Marine Park for the summer season.

Ms. Leonard will discuss a "seasonal fee" for this type of endeavor at the next Harbor Committee meeting. Rockland charges \$3,000 per year for the 'Landing' and \$1,500 per year for Snow Park. Rockport currently charges \$30 for the application fee and \$1.50 per day.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next Harbor Committee meeting will be held on May 13th, at 4:30 p.m. at Rockport Marine.

7. ADJOURN

Mr. Tassi motioned to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morton and passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody V. Sainio
Recording Secretary