

ROCKPORT HARBOR COMMITTEE

Rockport Town Office

November 1, 2012

5:15 PM

MINUTES

Chairman Joel Powers
Sam Temple
Harbormaster Abbie Leonard

Vice-Chairman Mario Turi
Peter van der Kieft
Town Manager Robert Peabody, Jr.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- a. Mr. Powers opened the meeting at 5:16 pm
- b. Peter van der Kieft was welcomed as the newest Harbor Committee member.

1. DISCUSSION OF MARINE PARK FEE SCHEDULE

- a. Twelve new float tie-off spaces have been added in the river. They will be offered to people on the waiting list and on a first-come, first served basis.
- b. A rail will be extended to a second float for boaters to tie up to. Some boaters have locked their boats to the cleats and sometimes to the engine. The Harbormaster may not be able to save a boat during a storm when this happens.

Ms. Leonard will establish a policy for not locking a boat to the dock.

- c. The proposed fees for Rockport are less than the fees in Camden and more than the fees charged by Rockland and Belfast.

Kayak launching fees are \$1 for a resident and \$2 for a non-resident.

Float storage fees are assessed by linear feet and not by square footage. Recreational floats are stored by the circle at Marine Park. There has been an issue of stored floats and boats preventing boat owners from having enough space to work on their boats during the off-season.

- d. Overnight parking for the harbor is located on the dirt section of Marine Park and at Cramer Park.
- e. Mr. Temple motioned to create 12 river dinghy locations at \$75 per tie-off and to approve the fee schedule. The motion was seconded by Dr. Turi and passed 4-0.

2. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

- a. The harbor and Marine Park fared well in the recent storm. The ocean remained flat on Monday, although Tuesday the water was rough.

- b. The Harbormaster, Bob Kennedy, Steve Beveridge and the Conservation Commission attended a meeting in Augusta where they learned Rockport has the “dirtiest beach (Goodie’s Beach) in the state.” The bacteria count is repeatedly over the limit in a bacteria count. CEO Scott Bickford has checked dwellings in the area and found a high percentage of the bacteria appear to be coming through a drain pipe connected to a condo complex and it contains pharmaceuticals.

An extension could be added to the pipe under the water and bring it away from the beach area. DEP could do this for a fee. An engineered system would cost approximately \$15,000.

Mr. Kennedy will be asked to meet with the Harbor Committee again regarding the pollution issue.

- c. Signs are posted at the harbor when a water advisory is issued by Maine Healthy Beaches.
- d. The commercial float and the Schooner Heron’s float are the only remaining floats in the harbor. Docks were removed from the water six (6) weeks ago because of storm conditions. A crane would have been needed to put the “E” dock back in the water.
- e. Harbor Committee members will review the Coastal Waters and Harbor Ordinance for possible future changes.
- f. A proposed budget will be reviewed at the next Committee meeting.
- g. Dinghies, on occasion, get caught under the stiff arm and sink during storms.
- h. The Boat club will be replacing pilings in 2013. Rockport will consider driving additional pilings. Approximately \$6,000 is in the float reserve.
- i. The finger floats along the ramp need to be replaced.
- j. Lake floats previously given to the Town will not last another season. The cost to construct floats ranges from \$25 to \$35 per square foot. Heavy use floats are necessary because they are not attached to pilings. Rebar keeps the floats from moving too far.
- k. Mr. Temple offered assistance to the Harbormaster from Rockport Marine for reconfiguring floats. The Select Board will need sketches for the changes in the harbor. Ms. Leonard and Mr. Temple will meet before the next Harbor Committee meeting.
- l. Float configuration will be discussed at next Harbor Committee meeting.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

4. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2012 MINUTES

Mr. Temple motioned to accept the minutes of September 20, 2012 as adjusted. The motion was seconded by Dr. Turi and passed 4-0.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Turi motioned to adjourn at 6:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. van der Kieft and passed unanimously.

6. NEXT MEETING

The Next Harbor Committee meeting will be held on December 13, 2012 at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody Sainio
Recording Secretary