

# ROCKPORT HARBOR COMMITTEE

Rockport Town Office

February 27, 2014

5:15 PM

## MINUTES

Chairman Mario Turi  
Patrick Annis  
Peter van der Kieft  
Public Works Director Mike Young

Joel Powers  
Tim Hoffman  
Harbormaster Abbie Leonard  
Selectman Geoff Parker

Gordon Best  
Scott Whitman  
Bradford Scott  
Rob Iserbyt  
Bonnie Schmidt

Daniel Dodge  
Matt Samuels  
Gray Hanna  
Scott Rocknak

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- a. Dr. Turi opened the meeting at 5:22 p.m.

### 1. MAINLY LOBSTER & SEAFOOD – IDEAS FOR IMPROVING COMMERCIAL OPERATION

- a. Mainely Lobster & Seafood replaces Oyster River Lobster at the harbor. The company purchases lobsters and sells bait and fuel for commercial fishermen.
- b. The existing fuel tank has not been properly permitted but is still in “great shape” and acceptable for continued use. The tank does not have a safety valve but will be brought into compliance with State Regulations.
- c. The fuel delivery system, however, is inefficient and inadequate. 192’ x 1 ¾” of distribution line will be installed along the front of the seawall. The line is non-corrosive, double walled and designed to go below the bulkhead. It will not interfere with any attachments to the dock. All necessary safety measures will be taken to install the line.
- d. A pump, similar to those at a gas station, will be installed inside the fence line on the facility side. The pump system automatically shuts down and will not deliver fuel if there is any deviation. The solenoid is double protected with redundancy built in to prevent spillage. The State Fire Marshal’s office has tentatively approved the system. The site will be aesthetically Pleasing when complete.
- e. Public Works will assist in the tank project and provide all the necessary crushed stone. The cost of the crushed stone was unavailable at the meeting.
- f. The existing motor is unreliable, loud and will be replaced. The new motor will increase the lifting capacity of the hoist. A 100 amp service will be installed for the fuel pump. The electricity is metered and will be paid by Mainely Lobster.

- g. Financing for the project was discussed at length. It was unclear if the project could be funded before the next budget year.
- h. A Spill Prevention Policy is being written. All employees will be educated on reacting to a spill.
- i. Extending the parking and creating a “No Parking Zone” area on the fishermen’s side has been discussed. High tides wash pavement into the parking area and create holes that need patching. This project would make it easier to keep the area clean and help stop traffic from going behind the fisherman’s trucks. Filter fabric will be placed at the bottom the parking area slab, covered with 2” of crushed stone and then marine mix concrete. Rebar will be imbedded into the concrete apron on two (2) sides. Conduit will be buried in the concrete and the concrete angled to the drains. A jersey barrier or post will protect the front of the pump. The estimated cost for the project is \$7,800. Mainely Seafood will cover \$3,500 to \$4,000 of the cost.
- j. Mr. Hoffman motioned, seconded by Mr. Powers, to proceed with the project contingent upon the ability to secure financing. The Harbor Committee agreed to recommend issuing emergency funding to the Select Board. The motion passed 6-0.
- k. Dr. Turi motioned, seconded by Mr. van der Kieft that the Harbor Committee recommends designating funding for 2014-2015 for the harbor project. Mr. Whitman offered, on behalf of Mainely Seafood, to temporarily cover the costs of the Town’s part of the project if legal aspects can be worked out. The Town would reimburse Mainely Lobster in July, when the new budget goes into effect. The motion passed 6-0.

## **2. MARINE PARK – DISCUSSION & LIGHTING OPTIONS FOR PARK & FLOATS**

- a. The SHIP Grant, for lighting at the harbor, will pay approximately 99% of the proposed work as long as the project benefits 26’ or larger transient recreational vessels. Any tool located on the float will be fully funded.

Planner Bill Najpauer provided samples of diffused light fixtures and poles. The lighting will be installed along the head wall through the park and along the pathway. There will be collaboration between the Harbormaster, Harbor Committee, Planner, Public Works Director and Parks Committee in choosing the light fixtures and poles. Power will run to the pedestals but will not be connected.

- b. Two (2) power lines will be run for every 100’ of floats and for each pedestal. The lines will be simplified as much as possible because the floats are pulled when storms are expected.
- c. The Harbormaster included \$10,000 in the budget as a match from the Town. The project will be placed out for bid. The estimated completion date is July 1, 2014.

## **3. ROB ISERBYT – DISCUSSION OF USE OF DOCK SPACE FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY THE TIMBERWIND**

- a. Five (5) 10’ x 25’ floats have been funded by a SHIP grant and a donation. The Committee and Harbormaster discussed possible locations for the floats. The harbor will gain 100’ of dock space.
- b. It was Mr. Iserbyt’s opinion that, as the harbor improves, it will become more attractive for yachts to spend the night. He said commercial users sense they “will be squeezed out” of using the harbor in favor of recreational use.

- c. The Schooner Heron has a contract with the Town to use dock space. Mr. Iserbyt would like a “sense of direction” from Town of Rockport that he will be guaranteed a commercial space. Mr. Iserbyt, Johanson Boatworks and Rocknak Yachts propose to share the space formerly used by the Schooner Timberwind. They would agree to pay the same fee to make up for the lost revenue from the Timberwind.

Bonnie Schmidt indicated she would also like to use the former Timberwind site for the Schooner Heron. She said the space would allow for an easier approach and departure. The vessel is approximately 52’ on deck. An estimated 12’ of bow would go beyond the end of the float The Harbormaster is considering using the inside of the new float for the Town’s boat.

- d. Rocknak only uses the harbor facilities in the spring and fall for launching and boat repair. The company has used the dock continuously for 29 years and sporadically for 39 years.
- e. A commercial use fee will be established.
- f. More dinghy space is needed at the harbor.
- g. Swimmers will not be allowed to jump off the ends of the floats.

#### **4. HARBORMASTER’S REPORT**

- a. The mooring and waiting list bills have been mailed.
- b. The Harbormaster has specifications for the SHIP Grant Project. Two (2) floats will be bid out and the third float will be constructed in-house by Public Works. New pilings and/or dolphins and three (3) floats have been budgeted.
- c. A separate float will be installed for mackerel fishing.
- d. Jody Maltese will not be returning as Assistant Harbormaster. The position will be posted.

#### **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. Mr. Parker said TIF money will be used to bring fiber optics to the Town and the harbor in conjunction with Marine Media.
- b. The hub of the fiber optics will be located near the pump station in the village. It will be approximately two (2) years before fiber optics reach the harbor.
- c. The Town budget includes bringing fiber optics to the Town Office. The Rockport Opera House will be connected after Maine Media. The Town will own the cable and could bid out the service. The cost for routers is unknown.
- d. GWI will initially pay for half of the cost of the project and will sell the use domestically.

#### **6. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES**

- a. Mr. Powers motioned and Mr. van der Kieft seconded to approve the minutes of October 10, 2013 as written. The motion passed 5-1.

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Mr. van der Kieft motioned and Mr. Annis seconded to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

- a. The Harbor Committee will meet on March 27, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody Sainio  
Recording Secretary