

ROCKPORT HARBOR COMMITTEE

Rockport Town Office

May 17, 2011

5:15 PM

MINUTES

Chairman Robert Tassi
Taylor Allen
Sharilyn Morton
Harbormaster Abbie Leonard
Gareth Gordon

Vice-Chairman Doug Cole
Joel Powers
Patrick Annis
Select Person Sani Fogel
Lisa Morgan

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- a. The meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Mr. Powers motioned to change the verbiage of the last sentence on page 1 of the April 14th minutes and accept the minutes. The sentence will now read “.....by the Public Works crew, may have to be paid”

The motion was seconded by Dr. Cole and passed unanimously.

2. GARETH GORDON – Float placement in the mooring field

- a. Mr. Gordon received permission from former Harbormaster Kenny Kooyenga to use a float in the harbor (owner unknown) for his children to tie their boats to and use for swimming. The original owner came forward to claim the float.
- b. Ms. Leonard and Mr. Gordon met with Town Manager Peabody who honored the agreement with Mr. Kooyenga and allowed a new float to be constructed. Mr. Gordon was unaware he needed permission from the Town to locate a float in the harbor. This matter is not addressed in the current ordinance although a private float fee is on the fee list.
- c. The Town received complaints regarding swimming from the floats and two (2) boats being tied to the float instead of one (1) boat.
- d. This matter was discussed at length. Consideration was given to, but not limited to: the float being capable of handling more than one boat because of the “swing” needed to dock; the mooring field is a place to moor boats; and future review of the situation.
- e. The Harbor Committee recommended: Mr. Gordon pay the mooring and float fee; stipulate other boats will not be tied to the mooring overnight; stipulate the size of the

boat that can be tied to the float stipulate the size of the float and what can be tied to it; and the boat owner seek permission from the Harbor Committee for a float in the harbor.

The final decision will remain with the Harbormaster.

3. LISA MORGAN – Question of Mooring #134 Ownership

- a. Ms. Morgan submitted her name for Mooring Wait List in 2005. She married John Priestley in 2000 and received her mooring (her name only) in 2003. She said Mr. Priestley tended the family finances and added his name to the mooring. In 2004, Mr. Priestly was listed as the only owner of the mooring. Ms. Morgan stated she was unaware this change had taken place.
- b. Mr. Priestly requested and received the mooring in a recent divorce decree. Ms. Morgan owns a boat and would like her original mooring in the inner harbor. She retained ownership of the tie-off.
- c. The Harbor Committee is not qualified to change the name of a mooring owner. The Harbormaster has tried to contact Mr. Priestley, but has not been successful in reaching him. Ms. Leonard deferred to the matter to the Town Manager who forwarded the information to the Town Attorney.
- d. Town Attorney William Plouffe said there was no property interest in a mooring. The Town permits the use of the mooring but nothing that goes with the permission. It was Mr. Plouffe's opinion the right to the mooring is with the original applicant. Chairman Tassi considers the matter to be between Ms. Morgan, Ms. Leonard and the Town Attorney.

4. REVIEW OF MOORING LIST

- a. Ms. Leonard provided copies of the Mooring application/owner list to the Committee. The Committee discussed: names of mooring owners and boats, the mooring number; and current unused moorings.
- b. The Harbormaster will check on which moorings are available. She will also attempt to stop people from parking over the 2 hour limit. Parking is available in Cramer Park.
- c. Ms. Leonard notified people on the waiting list that outer moorings are available. The line indicating where moorings stop in the outer harbor needs to be better defined.
- d. The Schooner Timberwind provides a shuttle service for passengers to off-site parking areas. Passengers for the Schooner Heron leave their vehicles at Marine Park which has created a lack of parking for other patrons. There is a two hour time limit on parking at the harbor.

5. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

- a. Ms. Leonard reported the Ship Grant for the floats is moving forward. The Submerged Land Lease was needed by the Town before the project could go out to bid.

- b. The Pumpout will be installed by the end of June. The Town will dig the ditch and upgrade electrical pedestals on the site. A portion of the grant provides \$1,000 per year for maintenance.
- c. Mr. Annis reported Oyster River Lobster has located a storage building on the public wharf. He said the location of the building prevents proper vehicle navigation in the area.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next Harbor Committee meeting will be held on June 16th at 5:15 p.m. at the Rockport Town Office.

7. ADJOURN

Mr. Allen motioned to adjourn the Harbor Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Powers and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody V. Sainio
Recording Secretary