

ROCKPORT HARBOR COMMITTEE

Rockport Town Office

July 12, 2012

5:15 PM

MINUTES

Chairman Bob Tassi
Mario Turi
R. J. Masiello
Harbormaster Abbie Leonard

Joel Powers
Sam Temple

Select Person Charlton Ames

Mr. Tassi spoke privately with the Harbor Committee members regarding unresolved issues he currently has with the Town of Rockport before starting the meeting.

Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Tassi opened the meeting at 5:17 pm

1. Election of Officers

Dr. Turi motioned to appoint Mr. Powers as Chairman for the ensuing year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tassi and passed 4-0-1 with Mr. Powers abstaining.

Mr. Temple motioned to appoint Dr. Turi as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tassi and passed 4-0-1 with Dr. Turi abstaining.

One (1) vacancy remains on the Harbor Committee.

Mr. Tassi pointed out the Harbor Committee is usually notified of any persons interested in serving on the Committee. The Committee was unaware of the appointments of Mr. Temple and Mr. Masiello. Mr. Tassi added that the new chairman should help set the agenda and review applications.

2. Update on SHIP Grant Project

- a. The Harbormaster reported the SHIP Grant for the floats and pilings was completed on July 3rd. The MDOT offered the Town of Rockport an opportunity to purchase a fourth float. The float was constructed by Two Harbor Marine.

Ms. Leonard proposes a \$75 flat annual fee to tie up to the first two (2) floats in the river. The other floats will be used by permission only. Some spots will be used by transient boats on a first come, first served basis. The fee will begin after August 14th and will be retroactive.

Mr. Tassi motioned to approve the \$75 annual fee for the tie – ups. The motion was seconded by Dr. Turi and passed 5—0.

- b. The Town of Rockport will apply for a new SHIP grant that will provide a new lighting system to the Harbor. The original wiring at Marine Park was underground but deteriorated and was hung overhead. Over head wires are dangerous and make it hard to launch sailboats and difficult to store boats during hurricanes. The wiring would again be placed underground.

Only secondary power is available at the harbor. The area is poorly lit; there are ‘blind’ spots and the footbridge it pitch black. The goal is to install power, at the very least, to the head of the floats and docks.

The initial estimate for the lighting was \$325,000. The Harbormaster contacted other tradesmen who indicated the cost would be approximately \$130,000. Ms. Leonard set a letter of intent to apply for \$140,000. This would provide additional funds to cover unexpected costs. She met with the MDOT representative who said the SHIP grants are very competitive this year. MDOT has the ability to apply for other grants on behalf of their applicants.

Mr. Masiello recommended the Harbormaster summarize all information for the Committee’s review prior to a meeting. Mr. Temple suggested reading the initial grant application and previous minutes to garner that information.

Mr. Masiello said a well established policy needs to be established. Mr. Tassi noted the Harbor Committee is “basically” and advisory board that sends recommendations to the Select Board who reviews the suggestion.

3. Wording of Proposed Appendix to Marine Harbor Ordinance – Regarding Mooring Use

- a. Ms. Leonard researched if an appendix can be made to the Ordinance. Any changes must be rewritten and voted on by the residents. She was hoping to implement some of the proposed changes this season

The Harbormaster will research other harbors for their wording. This discussion will be held at a fall meeting.

- b. The Committee discussed allowing a grace period for mooring use. The members also reviewed the minimum use of a mooring a tie off. Mr. Ames uses his as guest mooring. A change would allow the Harbormaster use of mooring not being used by the mooring owner.

The Ordinance Review Committee review any proposed changes to an ordinance. Proposed change(s) are forwarded to the Select Board. The Harbor Committee’s goal is to have the proposal in front of the Select Board in September.

Ms. Leonard will prepare and forward the information to the Harbor Committee within the next two (2) weeks in time for the next meeting.

4. Fishing on Recreational Floats

- a. An unknown person(s) put “No Fishing” signs by the new recreational floats. Recently eight (8) people put lounge chairs on the docks and had fishing lines in the water. This has become a major concern during the hours of heavy boat traffic. The floats are designated for tying recreation boats to and not for fishing.

There are other opportunities to fish at the harbor. In June a dog ate a fishhook. Mr. Tassi stressed that it is difficult to pull up his schooner to his dock. Fish hooks are embedded in the roping and other gear he uses.

A time limit and designated fishing area could possibly be established at the harbor. This move would create an enforcement issue for Ms. Leonard.

The Committee will address this issue at a later date.

5. Harbormaster’s Report

- a. The 83’ fife “Adventuress” will be brought to Marine Park on July 16th. The move will take approximately 1-1/2 hours to move from Rockport Marine where it has taken nearly three (3) years to be renovated. The masts will be set while the ship is at Marine Park. Taylor Allen has offered to launch any other boats, at no cost, from Rockport Marine on Monday or Saturday during the launch.

The launch is scheduled for July 21st at 12:30 p.m.

- b. Ms. Leonard reported that Pop the Cork was impressive and had minimum impact on the harbor.
- c. The chess board platform has been dug out and readied for the concrete to be poured. The chess pieces will be approximately 20” in height. Additional lawn space around the in-ground board has been cleared provided a nice view of the harbor.
- d. The Harbormaster turned over seven (7) moorings and three (3) tie offs to new users.
- e. Ms. Leonard noted the pump out station has not been used much.
- f. There are between 15 and 20 people on the waiting list for a mooring. The Harbormaster offered the opportunity to each person to have mooring in outer harbor and all declined.
- g. Rockport Marine leases moorings from the Town but the mooring gear owned by individuals using the mooring.

6. Approval of May 31, 2012 Minutes

Dr. Turi motioned to approve the minutes of May 31, 2012 as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Temple and passed 4-0

7. Next Meeting

The Next Harbor Committee meeting will be held on August 9, 2012 at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody Sainio
Recording Secretary