

ROCKPORT HARBOR COMMITTEE

Rockport Town Office

August 9, 2012

5:15 PM

MINUTES

Chairman Joel Powers
Vice- Chairman Mario Turi
Patrick Annis
Sam Temple
Harbormaster Abbie Leonard
Select Person Charlton Ames
Town Manager Robert Peabody, Jr.

Police Chief Mark Kelley
Larry Fortunoff
David Jackson
Lisa Morgan

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Powers opened the meeting at 5:16 pm

1. ADDITIONAL PARKING SPACE DISCUSSION – Police Chief Mark Kelley

- a. Chief Kelley said he is always looking for additional in-town parking. He pointed out that using 20' spaces would create seven (7) more spaces. This additional space would also help with future launchings of larger boats with an easier angle to the launching site.
- b. Ample parking is available for both restaurants and other businesses in the downtown area but is not adequate if more than two or three events are scheduled at the same time.
- c. Dr. Turi noted that Marine Park is a distance from the mercantile area. He questioned whether the Town needed another parking place rather than keeping the existing green space.
- d. The Harbormaster suggested moving the stationary buoy back and doing a curb cut would allow for five (5) additional parking spaces. If the light pole by the picnic spot is move another two (2) to three (3) spaces would be available.
- e. Mr. Temple mentioned the Town's approach to the Boat Club and the bridge. Mr. Peabody said there are future plans to make this area more user friendly. Recommendations in the Capital Improvement Plan are to improve drainage, and to pave and stripe the roadway and parking area. Sections of the parking could be leased out for local workers and a better area set aside for the fishermen. Striping parking spaces allows for better management of parking.
- f. Dr. Turi pointed out the unique character Rockport harbor has because it really is a park. It would be a loss of green space to have more parking spaces. Once the asphalt is removed it will "look like any other harbor."

- g. There are approximately 20 parking spaces in Cramer Park although the space does not appear to be “inviting.” Rebuilding the walkway from Cramer Park to the shore could make it more attractive. Better signage could indicate parking in the park and other areas near the harbor. There is a small kayak launching area under the bridge.
- h. Further discussion of this matter will be held nearer to budget time.

2. PROPOSAL FOR CATAMARAN CHARTERS – Larry Fortunoff

- a. Mr. Fortunoff intends to move to Rockport in 2013 from Vermont. He requested permission to locate his 40’ tri-maran in Rockport harbor and provide day tours. Mr. Fortunoff holds a captains license and has a mooring in the outer harbor. Mr. Fortunoff said he would not be competing with the other boats. Ms. Leonard suggested a policy be established for this type of venture.
- b. Mr. Fortunoff questioned where he could tie up long enough to load and unload passengers. The Town float cannot be used by a profit making entity. The Schooners Timberwind and Heron have their own spaces through a lease agreement with the Town. The first hour to tie up in front of the recreation float is free. Additional time is \$10 per hour if space is available.
- c. Mr. Fortunoff would like to advertise his charters with signage at Marine Park. He currently schedules two (2) charters per day. He also would be taking passengers to nearby islands or to their vessels.
- d. The Committee, and others present, discussed the proper location of signage and pamphlets at Marine Park pamphlets that are located in various locations at Marine Park. Mr. Powers recommended a common, better organized area for all signage and pamphlets.

3. SETTING RIVER TRANSIENT DINGHY DOCK FEE

a. The Harbormaster provided a photo that demonstrated the need for additional dock space in the harbor. She is recommending a \$75 use fee for the docks be established for the remainder of the season. Information on the fee application could also be used to notify owners of impending storms or let the Town employees know if a non-permitted dinghy is tied up to the dock. Some dinghies are left for lengthy periods of time and need to be pumped out. Stickers would be issued to the owner of the dinghy. This fee would help to recoup some of the Town’s funds used for the grant. Ms. Leonard received positive feedback for the fee from the users of Marine Park.

- a. A sign could be erected notifying boaters of the permit which would be available on a Tuesday morning at 8:00 a.m. on a first come, first served basis. Approximately 15 to 20 spaces would be available. The permit would be for the right to dock on the float and not for a particular space. Spaces would be available to transient boaters. All permits are at the Harbormaster’s discretion.
- b. Colored railings could possibly be used for easy identification – red rails would be by permit or permission and white rails would be for transient use.

- c. Space for boaters wanting to leave their vessel for a day or weekend is not available at this time.
- d. The Committee will revisit the phasing out of tie-offs.
- e. Dr. Turi motioned to establish a two (2) tier system for dinghy dockage. The two (2) further floats will require a fee of \$75 per season. The first two (2) floats will be retained for transient use. Having a permit this season will not guarantee a permit for the next season. The motion was seconded by Mr. Annis and passed 4-0

4. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

- a. Ms. Leonard reported the launch of the "Adventuress" went smoothly with over 1,000 persons attending. In return for using Marine Park, Rockport Marine will redo the brackets on the Harbormaster's Building. The brackets are currently varnished and require high maintenance to look attractive. Sealing and painting the brackets dark green (to match the building trim) will considerably lower the maintenance. The Harbormaster had budgeted \$4,000 for the work.

Mr. Ames complimented Ms. Leonard on the launching of the "Adventuress."

- b. Concrete that had been removed for the pump-out station has been replaced.
- c. The concrete for the in-ground chess board has been poured. Loam will be added to the lawn and brought up even with the chess board. The Harbormaster noted the site of the chess board has one of the best views of the harbor.
- d. Public Works installed a fence alongside the launching ramp.
- e. The roof on one of the lime kilns has collapsed. Public Works will trim and reroof the kiln within the next two (2) weeks.
- f. The Harbormaster has received positive feedback for Marine Park. There has been a large amount of boat traffic and overnight board dockage this summer. Mr. Peabody has received numerous compliments on the harbor staffing and the way the harbor presents itself.
- g. The area surrounding the Oyster River Lobster truck has been unkempt at times. Mr. Annis has spoken with the owner regarding this matter.
- h. The weed whacking for 2' on either side of the path to the further side of Marine Park has been kept up by the Harbormaster's staff. The maintenance is under contract to be done three (3) times during the summer but the Harbormaster's staff and keeps it looking good in between.

5. APPROVAL OF JULY 12, 2012 MINUTES

Mr. Temple motioned to approve the minutes of July 12, 2012 as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Annis and passed 4-0

6. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

7. NEXT MEETING

The Next Harbor Committee meeting will be held on September 20, 2012 at 5:15 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Turi motioned to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Annis and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody Sainio
Recording Secretary