

ROCKPORT HARBOR COMMITTEE

Rockport Town Office

September 20, 2012

5:15 PM

MINUTES

Chairman Joel Powers
Patrick Annis
Harbormaster Abbie Leonard

Vice-Chairman Mario Turi
Sam Temple
Town Manager Robert Peabody, Jr.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Powers opened the meeting at 5:22 pm

1. ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF R. J. MASIELLO

- a. Mr. Powers accepted the resignation of R. J. Masiello.
- b. Peter van der Kieft submitted an application for the Harbor Committee

2. REVIEW COMMERCIAL USE OF RECREATIONAL FLOATS (Per request of Select Board)

- a. The Harbormaster reported that concern was expressed at the August Select Board meeting regarding the activity at the harbor and on the floats. Direction is needed as to how these issues will be managed. The Select Board recommended the Harbor Committee review recreational floats. Currently three (3) commercial permits are available and grandfathered. They are held by Bob Tassi (Schooner Timberwind), Twig Bower (Schooner Heron) and Jeff Brow (Oyster River Lobster).
- b. Larry Fortunoff offered sailing trips on his catamaran this past summer. He picks up and disperses passengers on the public float at no cost to him as long as he is tied up no more than one (1) hour per time. Mr. Fortunoff makes several trips each day but has not applied for any permits.
- c. Some commercial entities such as Johansen Boatworks launch boats at the public landing. The company pays a hauling fee and gives yearly donations to the harbor.
- d. The Committee discussed establishing a fair lease agreement and policy. Committee members questioned whether the Harbormaster would have discretion over this matter. Ms. Leonard will contact other towns for their input.
- e. Mr. Fortunoff requested permission to install signage to advertise his business. Rob Iserbyt has a kiosk at Marine Park which provides pamphlets for his business. Mr. Tassi had brochures which have disappeared.

- f. The Harbormaster will convey to the Select Board the Harbor Committee reviewed the 'commercial use of recreational' and found its use to be acceptable. The Harbor Committee does not have the capability to adjudicate this matter.
- g. The Committee agreed that schooners add to the allure of the harbor but two (2) is enough for the waterfront infrastructure.

3. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

- a. Public Works replaced the roof on one of the lime kilns.
- b. Some of the trees in Marine Park have been trimmed.
- c. The chess board has been painted and the pieces filled with sand. The pieces are being stored on the second floor of the Harbormaster's Building. The official unveiling of the chess set will be held in October.
- d. Mowing contracts for Marine Park have been reviewed.
- e. The State has received approximately 120 applications have been received for the BIG Grant. The Federal Government is providing \$100,000 to each state. The Town of Rockport has applied for a grant to install and/or upgrade lights and power to Marine Park.
- f. The Town would like to realize approximately \$30,000 per year, mainly from dockage, from Marine Park. Visiting vessels have requested to stay overnight in Rockport Harbor. During storms boats could be removed from the water for safety reasons.
- g. The fisherman's floats and the one next to the float have been pulled for the season. The remaining floats will stay in the water for further use. Lobstermen have been using the Town fishing float.
- h. Signage has helped to discourage the use of unauthorized fishing on the floats although several people still fish on the dock.
- i. Dock spaces are available in Goose River.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Committee members reviewed copies of the latest Coastal Waters & Harbor Ordinance. Members discussed allowing the Harbormaster to remove someone from the mooring list and allow them use of an unused mooring (Section 502.2). This could be considered a temporary adjustment for use of a mooring.
- b. Under Section 502.2.1, the Members suggested adding permission for the Harbormaster to assign someone to a mooring during the grace period. Moorings are assigned to designated vessel and cannot be rented out by the owner but town fees and inspections could be recouped. Rockport does not allow "guest" moorings or "subletting" of moorings.
- c. The Harbormaster will contact other towns and ascertain what is done in that community when a mooring is not used by the owner. The Committee also questioned the ramifications of damage to a vessel if a mooring "lets go."

5. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 9, 2012 MINUTES

Mr. Temple motioned to approve the minutes of August 9, 2012. 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 October 18 at 5:15 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Turi motioned to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Temple and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody Sainio
Recording Secretary