

Meeting Minutes
Rockport Harbor Committee
Wednesday, February 28, 2024

In attendance: Abbie Leonard, Sam Temple, Nancy Albertson, Cheryl Liechty, Kate Lee, Scott McPherson, Robin Chase, Patrick Annis; Guest: Tom Amory

Not present: Peter Ralston, Eric Boucher

Meeting called to order: 5:35pm

Minutes of January 17, 2024 meeting were approved.

New Business:

Discussion of Amory floats.

Motion approved 7-0: "Recommend that the dimensions of the floats and ramp are conforming with the Harbor Ordinance provided that the ramp land on the float such that the distance from the ramp attachment not exceed 50 feet."

The pier or deck (the part not yet built) seems like a separate issue.

The plans were hand drawn without dimensions and not distributed to the Committee members, so it was difficult to assess compliance.

However the Committee's understanding is that the following parts of his proposal are non-conforming with the **Harbor Ordinance, Chapter 600:**

601.4 Pier width shall not exceed **6' for private piers,**

601.5 Pier height as measured at the top of the deck shall not exceed the following elevations.

601.5.2 Middle Harbor and that portion of the Outer Harbor northerly of a line extending from the #5-day marker on the eastern shore to Mackerel Rock on the western shore – **8 ft above mean high water.**

Both the points of pier width and pier height could be contingent on whether we determine that Tom's proposed structure is a pier. If it is not, it is likely not the HC's purview. Of course precedent is in our minds when reviewing this.

Our direction to Tom was that the next step (as per the Harbor Ordinance) is the Planning Board.

Discussion of Winter boat storage on east side of Goose River:

Motion approved 7-0: "The Harbor Committee supports continued access to winter boat storage on the East side of the Goose River in alignment with our directive to support both commercial and recreational boating as stated in the 2004 Comprehensive Plan."

For additional background, the Harbor Committee continues to feel that the present use of that area appropriately balances the needs of commercial fishermen, other industrial and commercial use, recreational boaters and the Boat Club. The area is remarkably thoroughly utilized and reflects the type of harbor the Committee wants to see and reflects the wishes of the Town's people.

Questions as to whether the area needs to be modified for climate resilience do not strike us as pertinent to our recommendation as to the ongoing use. ie that a public parking lot, besides being contrary to public interest, would face the same climate challenges.

Harbor Master Report

- The bathroom renovations are complete!
- Dockage reservations have exceeded budget already for 2024 season.
- Online registration is available

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 20, 2024; 5:30pm, TBD

Meeting adjourned: 7:15 pm