

Harbor Committee Meeting Minutes Rockport Town Office - Richardson Room

Thursday, June 22, 2017

5:15 p.m.

**Sam Temple, Chair
Jeff Hamilton
Peter van der Kieft**

**Abbie Leonard, Harbormaster
Mike Young**

**Parker Hackett
Tim Hoffman**

Guests:

**Shane LaPrade
Nate Pickering
Rob Iserbyt
Taylor Allen
Patrick Mellor
Kenny Dodge**

The meeting was called to order at 5:19 by Sam Temple

1. Discussion of amending maximum inner Harbor Size Ordinance with Patrick Mellor from Strout & Payson Law Firm

Patrick Mellor from Strout & Payson Law Firm gave us a letter signed by Eight (8) commercial fishermen, supporting a proposal of modification “Commercial Fishermen who currently maintain a mooring location in the inner Harbor may utilize a commercial fishing vessel up to fifty feet.” We are currently trying to figure out a way to make this happen so that the fishing fleet doesn’t suffer in these small harbors. Patrick stated that the fishing fleet is vital to the community, so by working with the committee we want to find a way to make sure the fishing fleet remains vital and in order for the fishermen to stay competitive they need larger boats, and are on the water every day. He wants to make sure they have the proper support in the community to move forward with their business.

Sam would like any suggestions on how to handle this before the ordinance can be changed.

Currently there is a violation of the ordinance that we need to discuss, question whether to modify the current ordinance, and issue a conditional notice

A proposed modification is in the works, will not seek fines until a certain date.

Jeff would like to suggestion moving the boat to a mooring where the boat is allowed.

At the suggestion of the town attorney, Abbie suggested issuing a preliminary notice of violation, this will give us a chance to come up with a plan before issuing a formal notice.

Sam asked do we make an ordinance for the current situation, or one that serves current fisherman over other commercial users. Photographer, plumber, charter, Etc. We should not value one user over the other. We currently have 14 commercial Lobsterman.

Patrick said that the Coast of Maine is part of the fabric of the community, a tourist community, they want to see something to hold onto.

Abbie said that there are currently 26 boats in the inner harbor, 2 or 3 that are not commercial.

Jeff asked how far away is a mooring that will allow a 50-foot boat?

Abbie said that it would be pretty far out.

Sam asked if commercial users get inner harbor first available spot.

Parker was concerned that there is only so much room in the harbor

Tim asked why is that vessel there currently with it being in violation?

Patrick said that Kenny is fishing and that is where is mooring is.

Abbie offered a middle harbor mooring

Jeff asked how far away is that?

Abbie said that it is 400 feet from his current mooring

Tim said that there is no question that the fishing community is an asset to the harbor. The issue here is that the boat never should have been put in knowing it was under violation.

Abbie said that she would like to see how to make it fit.

Patrick said that he really appreciates all the input and has spoken with Gartley and Dorsky to figure out different ways to make the boat fit and has looked at other towns ordinances. He would like to come back to the committee with language proposals to see if something is acceptable.

Sam said that we have looked at this for a while, and it didn't look great.

Patrick wanted to thank the committee that they have been very thoughtful and would like the opportunity to present some different language and go back to the drawing board and see what options will work.

Abbie said the time frame in order to get an Ordinance changed, we would need the new language by August in order to get it on the November ballot.

2. Signage for Charter Business on Pier (Rob Iserbyt)

Rob Iserbyt would like to hang a banner 6' x 1' on the posts between the pilings on the pier at the end or side, and would also like to have a brochure box there as well.

Abbie said the new sign has been ordered and will be put up as soon as it arrives, for fifteen minute pick up and drop off limits.

Rob said if it takes more than 15 minutes, that they stay on the vessel so that it is not left unattended.

Sam asked if anyone has any problems with the banner going up?

Abbie said that the banner will just need to be maintained so it doesn't blow down.

Parker asked what is the time frame of leaving the banner up?

Rob said that he will take down the banner down during the winter, so the banner will only be up June thru November.

3. Proposal from Kalliste Yacht Services - Shane LaPrade and Nate Pickering

Kalliste LLC, is asking for permission to step masts at the harbor, they want to be able to use the parking space at the corner of the pier to park the truck and to use a section of pilings to construct a float to step masts, they do not want to compete with existing businesses, but just to fill in the gap. They have Liability insurance to cover the operation. The frequency would be approximately 5 in the spring, and it takes approximately an hour to step a mast. They would have to do it between mid to high tide. They would be willing to pay to contribute to the harbor park to be able to operate their business. They also have help services, which would help fishermen with engine issues. There is a 10,000 Maximum capacity, and the longest mast would be approximately 55 feet.

Jeff regarding the fees, the committee will need to discuss.

Taylor would like to know who makes the decision, whether they can or can't do this?

Mike said the harbor committee would make a recommend then it would go to the Town Manager for final approval.

Taylor was concerned that if they park the crane on the grass it would impact others being able to get to the launching pad.

Abbie said that it would only impact one parking spot, but she would prefer to see them on the grass.

Taylor is concerned about his business, he pays a lot of property taxes and is concerned how the town seems willing to allow other businesses to operate with little to no fees.

Parker asked why they feel there is need at the harbor?

Shane said that in the past of working down at the harbor they have seen over the years other people would allow certain businesses to step their masts and its more of a matter of convenience for the over flow during the busy time of the year.

Parker asked if they have you looked at other locations

Nate said yes, but they don't want to be in Belfast because of tides, and Lincolnville is not a friendly location.

Shane feels that Rockport is a good location.

Rob asked what would be the alternative spot in case Rockport doesn't work?

Nate said that the other side of the river is an option, the only concern would be the traffic flow.

4. Vote for Vice-Chair

Tim would like to nomination Jeff Hamilton to be our new Vice-Chair

Parker seconded the nomination

6-0 approved

5. Harbormaster's Report

Abbie said that she has a picture for Mario that she is having matted, she will see if Mario can come to the next meeting so they can present it to him and thank him for all his years of services with the Harbor Committee.

Abbie gave us an update on her discussion with the lawyer, he suggested that we do not do anything physical. The boat does fit, but it is in violation of the ordinance. The Town attorney suggested a prenotice of violation and a date that he has to respond by.

Mike said the Attorney suggested leaving the boat rather than putting the town at any liability.

Tim asked if there are boats around it, if so, would it be in the clear if other boats around it were 50' as well.

Motion that the harbormaster issue a prenotice of violation with an attempt of resolution by August 1st or a formal notice of violation will be issued.

Parker second the motion.

5-0 in favor

Jeff said that there was a reason someone picked 40 feet as the limit in the ordinance.

Abbie said that Vick Steinglass had an issue with a lobster buoy getting tangled in his rutter, Abbie helped get it out, whose responsibility should it be? The owner of the boat or the owner of the buoy? If you get wrapped up while under way, it should be the boat owner's responsibility, but while at the mooring. Should we have a policy change?

Parker said that the inner harbor is the only section of the harbor that is off limits.

Sam suggested that Rick attend our next meeting, to help guide us with the path forward.

6. Other Business

Sam was asking about the E float usage, and if it should be defined by the ordinance, we need to either enforce it or change the ordinance.

Abbie said that they should not be storing traps on the float.

7. Approval of Minutes

The harbor committee meeting minutes from May 11, 2017 were motioned to be approved by Peter Parker Second the motion.

4 all in favor

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on July 13th in the Richardson Room

9. Adjourn

The Harbor committee meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.