

## Town of Rockport Harbor Committee Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2019; 5:15 pm

Richardson Room

Present: Sam Temple, Abbie Leonard, Cheryl Liechty, Ralph "Doc" Wallace, Nancy Albertson, Scott Whitman, Jeff Hamilton, Scott Warren

### 1. New Business

- a. Minutes keeping: Multiple committee members expressed concern regarding the discontinuation of town office administrative support to keep minutes for meetings. For the current meeting, Cheryl Liechty volunteered to take minutes.
- b. Ordinance policy on neglected/abandoned boats in the harbor. The new ordinance language was reviewed. Abbie will communicate with mooring holders to alert them in this regard. A discussion ensued re: ensuring enforcement of the ordinance. One boat is currently in violation despite Abbie's efforts to address this with the owner. Cheryl made a motion to request that Abbie consult with the town attorney in regards to enforcement of the ordinance in this case. All committee members present were in favor.
- c. Thoughts on how to equitably set commercial fees and leases. Sam would like to make this a goal for all future fee schedules and leases. In the course of discussing this further, Cheryl suggested that direct comparisons between leases for fisherman, lobster buyers, charter boats, and the boat club may be difficult given that these enterprises differ in a number of ways: land-based, water-based, for profit, not for profit. Each also contributes to the town in a different way -- supporting the lobstering industry, encouraging tourism, supporting community activities such as youth sailing. A consensus was reached to suggest that the next step is to gather information regarding fees and leases for similar entities in other harbors in order to make agreements as equitable as possible. Sam pointed out that one overall question that needs to be considered at the Select Board level is, "How do you want to value the commercial use of the harbor?" At the next meeting, Abbie will also review with the committee when various leases are due for renewal.
- d. Thefts at the harbor. This was tabled for the next meeting.

### 2. Other Business

- a. Jeff Hamilton queried the status of repair to the currently non-operational pumpout station. Abbie assured committee members that this would be fixed by the end of the week. All committee members agreed that this was an urgent priority.
- b. Seawall project. Farley won the bid for this project. Abbie reported that this would commence within the coming week. Preparations have been made to ensure that the work is done safely with minimal disruption of boat launch and other harbor activities.

- c. Nancy Albertson and Ralph “Doc” Wallace were welcomed as alternate members of the Harbor Committee.
- 3. Harbor Master’s Report
  - a. Removal of boats from the town landing. This went smoothly. There were no particularly challenging issues with outliers this spring. It is anticipated that the same deadline will apply in 2020.
  - b. Update on operation of Sky Hook crane from the Marine Park. Abbie reported that, for the most part, this has gone well. There have been some concerns regarding the impact on parking and on ensuring that the park space remains safe for public use while the crane is operating. She will continue to monitor this over the course of the summer.
  - c. Update on Concert Series. Abbie has received a great deal of feedback about the June 30th concert - overwhelmingly positive. The concert was well attended despite suboptimal weather. At least two more events are scheduled for this season.
  - d. Float traffic so far this summer has been lower than average.
  - e. Abbie is reviewing mooring usage. It appears that there are many empty moorings.
- 4. Approval of Minutes from the May 23, 2019 meeting. Tabled. These have not yet been distributed for review; will be distributed prior to the next meeting.
- 5. Next Meeting: A firm date was not set; goal is to meet in late August.
- 6. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 pm.