

# ROCKPORT HARBOR COMMITTEE

Rockport Town Office

April 28, 2016

5:15 PM

Selectman Geoff Parker

Harbormaster Abbie Leonard

Barbara Chapman

Sam Temple

Mario Turi, Chairman

Peter E. van der Kieft

Caleb Lincoln

Guests: Scott Whitman, Kenny Dodge and Taylor Allen

## CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m. by Chairman Turi.

### 1. OTHER BUSINESS

- Coastal Waters & Harbor Ordinance Review –  
Discussion of 502.3 Large Vessel Location Limitations

A. Kenny Dodge proposed for fisherman to be able to have a 47 foot boat inside the inner harbor, stating that the industry is changing, and consequently fishing only for lobster will cease to be economically viable. Thus, Dodge stated, lobstermen must branch out into new fishing industries, such as halibut and shrimping. He also said that other harbors have larger boats in their inner harbors. Feels that his colleagues would have no problem with larger boats in inner harbor.

The Harbormaster asked the committee if they are ok with finding someone to swap temporarily with Kenny into the inner harbor. (Abbie is not even sure if this is a viable option, but is willing to explore the possibility). The potential swap would be a temporary solution, lasting only this season. Kenny wants to see where his boat will be located before he agrees.

Rockport does have physical restrictions due to the size of Harbor. The biggest concern is the greater likelihood that the 47' boats increased swing radius will cause collisions between moored boats. Rick stated that every Harbor is different.

The Harbormaster stated that there are two commercial moorings that are not in use in the inner harbor at this point in time with no commercial waiting list.

It may be possible to switch with someone in the middle harbor for the time being.

Rick stated that in reality the earliest an ordinance change can happen is November to be voted on by the Select board and the Ordinance Review Committee. So nothing is going to happen this summer.

At this point in time there is no flexibility to even approve a bigger boat in the inner harbor due to the Ordinance.

Kenny wanted to know if he has support from the Harbor Committee to change the ordinance, stated that in the future the Fisherman will be increasing the size of their boats and would like support from harbor committee.

Mr. Parker said the committee will look at the proposition on how to physically fit the larger boats in the inner harbor. Commercial overrides recreational boats and need bigger swings. All commercial mooring holders would need to agree to move their mooring and consider the costs involved.

Rick said the committee will need a long term solution, and draft ordinance with specific length overall deck. Every boat needs to be measured the exact same way.

Mr. Turi said it makes sense to find more room in inner harbor

Mr. Temple is happy if the fisherman plan to go with bigger boats, but shuffling out 2 other moorings, he doesn't think there will be enough swing room.

Another option is to expand the inner harbor.

Concern is other boaters will not be happy about moving out further.

Mr. Parker said that in order to keep same amount of moorings in the inner harbor with every boat its 400 feet. (20 boats – 10 feet all around in swing)

Mr. Temple said for each shore land property you get a mooring in front of them, this would affect all of them as well allowing them to also get a 48 foot boat.

Rick would like the committee to make a decision so we have time to plot it out and to visually look at it and reconfigure it to make it fit. We want fishermen to be successful. We need more information to make a decision. This summer to satisfy the ordinance temporary solution is to move Kenny to the middle harbor.

Mr. Parker said a potential solution would be slips rather than individual moorings. We would need to review all chains and swings.

The new floats were paid for by a grant so these can't be leased out for 5 years. Possibly in the future it will be option.

Barbara made a motion for Kenny's boat to be as close to the inner harbor as possible, Kenny accepted.

Mr. Temple made a motion to allow the harbormaster the discretion to put Kenny's boat as close to the inner harbor without violating the ordinance.

Motion was seconded by Mr. van der Kieft and passed 3-0.

## 1. DISCUSSION OF USE OF RIVER DINGHY FLOAT

- A. The Harbormaster asked if the dinghy float stickers should be on a first come first serve basis. Boaters usually arrive at 8 am to get stickers. She can still use last year's stickers.

The Harbormaster has had an issue with people approaching her that are not on the tie off waiting list. Also, has had a problem with boaters that have no boat in the harbor but want a place for their dinghy. Should she put people without moorings on the mackerel fishing dock and have a trial run due to the limited space.

Mr. Turi suggested that if they have a mooring in the harbor then they should automatically have a tie off.

There are 15 Stickers which will be available on June 1.

Mr. Turi suggested that we diminish the number of people that automatically get the tie off then there will be more room for dinghies.

The Harbormaster said that there may be people that may be agreeable to change.

Mr. Parker said that we have to honor all the people that are on the wait list.

The Harbormaster said that there is a huge wait list for tie offs.

Mr. Temple recommended that we stop putting people on the wait list.

The Harbormaster is currently trying to get another dinghy rack

It will be necessary to enforce the fisherman's dock in order to open up more space for all the dinghies to tie up.

The Harbormaster said that, due to the fact that dinghy space is so limited, boaters have been asking for rides to their boats. The question is should the Harbor be charging for these rides? Concerns are Licensing, Liability and a Boat. Suggestions are maybe a public rowing dinghy or a part time person.

Mr. Turi wanted to know the number of boats that are rowing boats? The Harbormaster said three.

Mr. Parker suggested a launch service and Mr. Turi thought it was a good idea, but Mr. Temple and the Harbormaster said it would not be profitable.

Mr. Turi suggested maybe just a launch service during special events.

There is a 12 foot length limit on the dinghy float.

Mr. Temple motioned for the Harbormaster issue on a first come first serve basis.

The motion was seconded by Barbara and Mr. van der Kieft seconded it.

## **B. COMMITTEE OFFICER ELECTIONS**

Mr. Turi stepped down as Chairman but would still like to be on the Harbor Committee.

Mr. van der Kieft recommended Mr. Temple.

Barbara and Mr. Turi seconded it.

Mr. Temple accepted his nomination as Chairman.

Mr. Temple nominated Mr. Turi as Vice Chairman.

Mr. van der Kieft seconded it. It was a unanimous vote.

Mr. Turi has accepted his nomination as Vice Chairman.

## **C. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT**

- a. The Harbormaster has been issuing a lot of moorings. It is an ongoing process of people not getting back to her. There has been a lot of back and forth and people that are at the top of the waiting list are indecisive.
- b. The Harbormaster has also been working on floats. Two new floats were built for where the Heron sits, because the others fell apart over the winter. The Harbormaster did not get paid while out on maternity leave, instead she was paid short term disability, so therefore there was extra money in the budget to be able to build new floats.
- c. The Harbormaster also fixed a two foot bump out on the recreational fishing dock and had to redo the deck because of exposure.
- d. The Harbormaster is currently working on getting everything ready for summer, putting in the water and cleaning up the bathrooms.
- e. The Harbormaster would like to know if the Committee wants a study done for their next meeting regarding moving boats around to find alternative solutions. Increasing the inner harbor, bow stern mooring options, etc.

- The Committee addressed that they would like Input from the fisherman as well and include it in the study.
- It was brought up that we shouldn't ignore the fact that fishing boats will be getting larger over the years to come.
- Concerns with a domino effect in the harbor, questioned whether or not middle harbor study be done as well.

#### **D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. van der Kieft motioned to approve the minutes for October 15, 2015.

The motion was seconded by Barbara and passed 4-0

#### **E. NEXT MEETING**

The next Harbor Committee meeting is scheduled for May 26 at 5:15 pm at the Rockport Town Office in the Richardson Room.

#### **6. ADJOURN**

Barbara motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm.

The motion was seconded by all and passed 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Hamilton

Recording Secretary