

ROCKPORT HARBOR COMMITTEE

Rockport Town Office

June 2, 2016

5:15 PM

Mario Turi
Peter van der Kieft
Tim Hoffman
Caleb Lincoln – Deputy Harbormaster

Sam Temple, Chairman
Harbormaster Abbie Leonard
Barbara Chapman
Michael Young – Public Works Director

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:24 p.m. by Chairman Temple.

1. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

The harbormaster wanted to clarify that she stated during the last meeting that there was no commercial wait list, what she meant was that there was no commercial fisherman on the waitlist except Barbara, but she currently does not have a fishing boat.

The meeting started with a discussion regarding space issues in the harbor, several charts were presented by the Harbormaster and the Deputy Harbormaster, showing swing radius. See attached charts. This showed that there was even a little overlapping with a 40' boat. If you have 18, 40 foot vessels with a 57 foot chain they will fit, but if they were to go stern to stern the boats will touch with no overlap, so probably 15 boats would fit.

The Red circles on the chart are the same size as 50 feet in length.

Questions were; what if each boat had a shorter mooring chain.

Currently there are 24 boats in the inner harbor.

The wind needs to be taken into consideration regarding the boats moving around.

Slips would be the same issue.

Mike said that there would be an issue with props getting wound up if we were to have boats moored bow to stern.

Mario said if we have 24 boats now, diagram says over crowding, what if there is an accident in harbor, and if boats bang into each other is the town held responsible?

Harbormaster says no, because the inspector has given them enough room to prevent this from happening, if it does happen the town is not liable, it would be on the boat owners inspector.

The harbormaster suggested that the committee leave the ordinance the way it is.

Mr. Temple suggested to put Kenny's boat in the middle harbor and not to change the ordinance.

Barbara agrees with Mr. Temple and the harbormaster.

Mr. Temple's understanding is that commercial boats take precedence to be in the inner harbor and that we could make the inner harbor only commercial and all under 40 feet.

Geoffrey said that if you go in that direction would ALL commercial boats be included or just the fisherman's boats.

It was suggested that the committee redefine the word "Commercial" in the ordinance.

Mr. Temple's concerns were the value of waterfront homes would decline if they didn't have a mooring in front of their homes.

Geoffrey said we can't change the ordinance due to property owners, it may diminish the value of their home.

Mr. Turi suggested maybe moving all commercial boats to the middle of the harbor to allow room for small boats and homeowners.

The harbormaster said that that would mean she would have to reconstruct the entire mooring field.

Mr. Turi then suggested maybe changing the definition, or shifting the line to make a broader space.

The harbormaster has the authority to say that the harbor is too tight, which leaves no room for adjustments.

Mr. Temple said we should just keep things the way they are.

2. OTHER BUSINESS

Dinghy space is a huge issue again this year.

20 permits were issued before 8am on June 1st.

The big question is where to put people that come in to the harbor just for the day.

The best solution is to put them at the inside of a float as long as the weather is good.

Mike and the harbormaster would like to add onto the river floats, 12 or 16 more feet and make it 4 feet wide to use for dinghies.

Mike suggested having both docks dedicated to tie offs.

Mr. Temple suggested to get rid of the wait list for tie offs.

The "E" float currently has 8 dinghies issued to it. The harbormaster will need to enforce keeping fisherman off it.

There have been several people that have recently come in for stickers that do not have moorings in the harbor, which makes it hard, because it would make sense to make sure all boats in the harbor have a place for their dinghy.

The harbormaster would like more creative ideas from the committee to give her more space for dinghies. A suggestion would be to maybe get 5 people to say they wanted a river spot rather than a tie-off.

Mike suggested to add versus change. This will be looked at for the next meeting to make a decision.

Mario suggestion an “A” dock, but Mike and the harbormaster said no because of the exposure to the weather.

Mr. Temple said that if you are on dock “E”, if you’re a commercial mooring holder do you pay extra to keep a dinghy at the dock.

The harbormaster said it was included in their float fee.

There is an issue with fisherman validating recreation boats.

The harbormaster was approached about another commercial charter business potential, an aluminum boat, which we would then allow access to the dock for overnight stay at the commercial rate (that the committee would need to set).

With a fifteen (15) minute rotation schedule (Camden does this)

A fee schedule for commercial dockage is an option to generate revenue and business.

Mr. Temple was ok with competition on the water.

Mr. Turi wanted to know about the business with overnight transportation.

The harbormaster would like to be able to lease to anyone and have the flexibility to allow other boats on the dock.

Suggestion for fee schedule if space allows is \$45.00.

The harbormaster suggested that maybe during different times of year the fee schedule could go \$1.00 per foot before June 1.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Turi motioned to approve the minutes for April 28, 2016.

The motion was seconded by Barbara and passed 3-0.

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4. NEXT MEETING

The next Harbor Committee meeting will be held on July 14 at 5:15 p.m. at the Rockport Town Office in the Conference Room.

5. ADJOURN

Mr. Turi motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 pm.

The motion was seconded by all and passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Hamilton
Recording Secretary