

Harbor/Waterfront Committee Meeting
January 14, 2010 8:00 PM
Falmouth Police Department

Roll Call

Present: William Oliver, Chairperson Stephen Archambault, Peter Leavitt, Jay Hallett, Manny Kourinos, Kim Maxfield-Fearon

Absent: Paul Dobbins, Harbormaster Alan Twombly

Members of the public: 2

Item I: Chairperson Comments

Chairperson Archambault attended a meeting for the Brown Property over on the Foreside. Made note to an outline forwarded to the committee members outlining what is being discussed about the Brown Property. The meeting was part of the town council meeting. He attempted to dispel rumors about recommendations to increase moorings. He (personally, not as a committee representative) suggested using the front parcel of the Brown property for parking as an interim answer to the parking problem. Currently the town council is not planning on doing anything with the property. There was speculation in the committee as to what was being done on the property as there is construction equipment there.

There was some discussion on the waiting list and whether anyone had shown up to voice their concerns. Only Chairperson Archambault and the harbormaster were present with connection to the mooring field.

At this point the committee members feel that they have presented the information requested to the town council and it's up to the public now to voice their concerns.

Item II: Review / Approve minutes of 11/12/09 Meeting

William Oliver made a motion to approve the minutes of the 11/12/09 meeting, Jay Hallett seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Item III: Public Comment

Richard Craven of Oxford Woods Road wished to express his concerns that the fate of the mooring list was being tied to the parking issues. He felt that there should be some rollover on the mooring list and that it should not hinge

on what will happen with the Brown property. He has observed that parking is really only an issue on the weekends and holidays.

Keith Noyes of Gray Road had 3 concerns.

1. He asked about what was being done about moorings that were not being used. According to the ordinance, moorings are to be pulled if they go unused for a year. He was told that last season, mooring owners were given a grace period due to the sudden economical issues, but this year there will not be a grace period and the harbormaster will be pulling unused moorings and moorings if there is no boat being put on them. He asked when that would happen and was told it would be up to the harbormaster.
2. What happened to putting a sign up at the end of the dinghy dock telling people that they were not to tie up there? Chairperson Archambault will check with the harbormaster and let him know what is going on.
3. What about the GPS field? He was told that it was being worked on. They need to check the survey of the bottom to check the depths of the harbor before they can reset the field. A recommendation has been made to the town council and they have chosen not to act on it. The harbormaster will check with the coast guard to see if they can help with that.

Item IV: Harbormaster Report

Online registration is working well.

31	moorings have been renewed on line
101	mooring permits have been issued
4	not renewing

William Oliver said the online registration program is simple to use.

There was discussion about the \$7.00 fee added to each mooring registration. The fee is to cover the cost of the program. When asked if it was a one time fee it was thought that this would probably be an annual fee.

The harbormaster is asking the town council for an end to the moratorium, or at least be allowed to fill the moorings from the waiting list of people who do not renew. There was discussion as to whether there was a moratorium and it is believed that it has been lifted and that the harbormaster has the authority to put in new moorings. There was some question as to how these slots would be filled as to whether the boat size will matter. There was brief discussion and agreed that the harbormaster would use his discretion. There are currently 48 spots open. Chairperson Archambault has spoken with the harbormaster who said he would not initially fill the 48 open spots, he will

probably put in a block of 10 moorings from the list then follow a 1 out / 1 in plan. Residents will be offered the spaces first. The police chief and harbormaster looked at the ordinance and the order of coming off the list is 1st resident commercial, 2nd resident noncommercial then nonresidents. Richard Garrett thought this was a state recommended waiting list but Chairperson Archambault believes it is a local decision but if Richie wanted to look into it and find something that says it's a state issue, he would be fine with it.

Item V: Unfinished Business

A Review Ordinance Language Regarding Approved Boats on Moorings

Harbormaster Twombly and Chief Tolan took the proposed wording to the town council, after taking it to the town attorney, and they approved the following language be added to the ordinance as Section 9-94c (2 or 3) a.:

“Dinghies, kayaks, canoes, and other similar small boats are not considered appropriate vessels for a permanent mooring assignment”

B Meeting with Public Works re Trailer Parking

Paul Dobbins was to set up a meeting with Public Works regarding trailer parking. As he is not present the issue will be tabled for the next meeting.

C Unlisted Items

None

Item VI: New Business

A Unlisted items

While talking with the harbormaster Chairperson Archambault learned that the funds from the grant for the outboard motors is finally being released to the town. The money for the **FLIR** will also be coming. The outboards have already been purchased but the **FLIR** has not.

Peter Leavitt would like to know what the next assignment for the committee is. The work on anchorage has been done and the recommendations have been presented to the town council and would like to know what the next project is. He doesn't see that there is much for the commit to do and if that is the case, shouldn't meet quarterly at this point.

Chairperson Archambault feels that the current council needs to be reminded that the committee was asked to come up with a long range plan and are getting tired of making suggestions and getting no support from the people affected by the issues. The town council needs to see people at the meetings to voice their complaints. This is an entirely new council and they do not have the same focus as the old one.

Jay Hallett and Peter Leavitt feel that the committee is getting nothing back from the council and would like some feedback on the report. It was suggested to have Councilor Chase go to them and get the feedback.

Richard Garrett reiterated that he is opposed to the long range plan and feels that the committee should let the harbormaster do his job. He believes that the council feels the same way and that they do support the committee and would come to them with any issues that come up. The issue with the Brown property has been tabled.

Jay Hallett believes that the harbormaster supports the grid plan but the it is currently tabled by the council. The council will not act until there is pressure from the public.

Peter Leavitt repeated his request, what is next for the committee to do? He would like some direction from the town council.

Chairperson Archambault would like to go as a committee to the council to get answers. Jay Hallett recommended that as a first step, Chairperson Archambault write a letter to the council asking them to meet with the committee and give them feed back as to the suggestions that were presented to them and Peter Leavitt suggested adding that they indicate what they would like from the committee in the future.

Richard Garrett said that whenever he speaks with a council member and they ask him, he tells them that the town landing is running fine and let the harbormaster get the waiting list gotten rid of.

Jay Hallett made a motion that Steve Archambault write a letter to the town council requesting the status of the report, what they think of it, what they plan to do with it and what do they expect of the committee down the road.

There was discussion about making sure that there was a long range plan for the harbor so that the harbormaster has something as a guide line. This will be particularly helpful should there be a change of personnel.

A request for a second on the motion was made and Peter Leavitt seconded it.

Richard Garrett wanted it on record that he does not support the motion because this has all been done before.

Peter Leavitt and Jay Hallett would like some response from the council on their opinion of the plan and Peter Leavitt would like to know if the committee needs to be meeting so often if all the work has been presented.

Manny Kourinos understands both sides Richie's and Jay & Pete's, but it ultimately falls on the harbormaster. The town council asked for the report, it was done and they chose not to act on it. There is apparently no moratorium so it's all back on the harbormaster, the committee has come full circle. He doesn't know what the purpose of the letter is.

William Oliver said that he would also like some response from the town council as to the work the committee has done.

Discussion continued on wanting response to the long range plan provided them.

Motion was voted on:

Steve Archambault, William Oliver, Peter Leavitt and Jay Hallett voted yes

Richard Garrett: No

Manny Kourinos abstained as he understands both sides.

It was suggested that a letter be written to assistant harbormaster Brigham McKenney due to his resignation as assistant harbormaster and commending him for his acceptance into graduate school.

There was brief discussion as to his replacement. Rick Freese may return. Chairperson Archambault suggested looking at Maine Maritime Academy and the Coast Guard base for a replacement. Jay Hallett suggested Lucas Hallett.

Item VII: Confirm Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2010 at 8:00 AM at the police station. Chairperson Archambault asked for members to e-mail him items for the agenda.

Pete Leavitt suggested if there were no items for the agenda that the meeting be cancelled and push it back for 2 months. Chairperson Archambault felt the meeting would be necessary for continuity and as it was mooring registration season the harbormaster may have some requirements from the committee. He also stated that he didn't want this committee to become like past harbor committees who met to drink coffee and eat doughnuts. Richard Garrett wanted it noted that he was offended by this reference to prior committees. They were good committees and got a lot done.

Item VIII: Adjourn

William Oliver made a motion and Richard Garrett seconded it that the meeting be adjourned. Voted on and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.