

Minutes Harbor/Waterfront Committee Special Meeting
2/2/09

Meeting called to order by Chairman Archambault at 6 pm

Roll Call

Chair Stephen Archambault, Jay Hallett, Manny Kourinos, William Oliver, Paul Dobbins, Chief Edward Tolan, Harbormaster Al Twombly, and Andrew Manning of Milone & MacBroom, Inc.

Absent: Richard Garrett, Peter Leavitt

Chairperson Comments

Steve Archambault opened the meeting with remarks on:

- Welcomed everyone and spoke about future meetings such as this one and the monthly harbor meetings and the need for public input at these meetings
- A brief history of the harbor and the events that led up to the redefining of the special anchorage by the U.S. Coast Guard, and the initial decision to hire a consultant
- The moratorium that was implemented by the council several years ago
- The consultant's report and the fact that the town council will be discussing this at their Feb. 23rd meeting
- There is ongoing work on improving the parking for the landing
- The history of why we implemented a dinghy registration program
- The timeline that was recommended to the council for the future of the harbor (copies were provided to the public in attendance)

Public Comments

At approximately 6:15 pm Chairman Archambault opened the meeting to public comments. During the next two hours 24 members of the public spoke on the following topics and offered several suggestions. Comments were as follows:

- A question on how the boats will be measured and whether or not dinghies should be tied to boat in the mooring field – HM Twombly advised he is working with the USCG to learn their method for this type of measurement.
- The question of what is an “access point” on the mooring application was answered by HM Twombly.
- A suggestion was made to raise the number of dinghies to 120. Chief Tolan advised that we are in the process of expanding the municipal dinghies to 10.

- A question on “helix” type moorings and the cost of moving those.
- Several people spoke on the aesthetics and the qualities of the landing and the anchorage and the need for the town to utilize it to its fullest potential.
- Many people stated that if there are individual problems with congestion in the mooring field, let the harbormaster address those problems, but they were not sure if the entire mooring field needed to be repositioned. Several people asked the town to complete a cost benefit analysis prior to relocating large portions of the mooring field.
- Many people asked who would pay for the cost of moving their mooring, if the town elects to reposition the field.
- Several people spoke on the idea of a launch service and if would be feasible since several had failed in the past. Chair Archambault did address the need for safety for those people that will be required to row a dinghy a long distance if their boats are moved further out in the anchorage or if the mooring field is expanded.
- A suggestion was made that on next year’s mooring application we ask the mooring holder if they want to be notified via e-mail on meetings and information – the committee agreed this would be a good idea.
- A request for the consultant’s report and power point presentation to be placed on the harbor website – Chief Tolan advised we will have it on as soon as possible.
- Several residents felt we should increase the size of the municipal dinghies for safety purposes – HM Twombly will look at the availability and additional cost.
- One resident asked if parking was available on Rt. 1 and if the proposed new Metro route along Rt. 88 would be a means of transportation.
- An inquiry was made on the potential for dredging the area of the launch ramp and side floats to allow larger boats access – the committee will review this request.
- Questions on the mooring waiting list and will the town allow people on that list to place a mooring now that the consultant’s report is complete – the committee indicated this will a point of discussion with the council on the 23rd.
- There were many comments on how well the harbor is being managed and the committee’s willingness to hold monthly open meetings.

Chief Tolan advised that there is now a direct link to the *Coastal Waters Ordinance* on the harbor section of the police department website.

Chair Steve Archambault concluded the meeting with a few brief remarks and a thank you to everyone for attending and their input.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Edward J. Tolan

Chief of Police