

**Harbor/Waterfront Committee Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2009**

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairman Stephen Archambault, William Oliver, Paul Dobbins, Richard Garrett; Manny Kourinos

Absent: Jay Hallett, Peter Leavitt

Others Present: Chief Edward Tolan, Harbormaster Alan Twombly, Kim Maxfield-Fearon, Town Councilor David Libby, Lieutenant John Kilbride

Members of the public: 4

CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

The mooring holders meeting went well. There were 70+ people in attendance. There were many good comments made and a number of issues to be addressed over the summer. There was interest in an e-mail list to be created for mooring holders and a line will be added to the mooring permit application.

The mooring companies meeting also went well. There were a number of issues raised to be addressed over the summer. They had questions mostly involving the implementation of the re-positioning of moorings (the anchorage as a whole or section by section). The long range plan will be discussed by the Town Council at their next meeting.

Dinghy Day is scheduled for 4/11/09 – Chairman Archambault asked for volunteers and Paul Dobbins volunteered to participate.

ITEM I: Review/Approve Minutes of 1/8/09 & 2/2/09 Meetings

1/8/9 Meeting – William Oliver made a motion to approve the minutes, Paul Dobbins seconded the motion – minutes approved unanimously.

2/2/09 Meeting – Brief discussion on clarification of some points and William Oliver made a motion to approve the minutes, Paul Dobbins seconded the motion – minutes approved 3 – 1.

Chairman Archambault commented that he has a DVD of the meeting with the mooring holders. He has received feedback about 50/50 positive and negative. William Oliver has had 3 people tell him they are unhappy with the long range plan, Richard Garrett has heard from 3 – 6 people who are opposed, Paul Dobbins has received 2 neutral comments from people who were unclear as to the goals of

the plan. Chairperson Archambault asked that comments be forward to him.

Richard Garrett stated that someone had told him that they were unable to find the link to the Coastal Waters Ordinance. Paul Dobbins suggested taking the Marine Unit link from the Police Department and listing it on the front page of the Town's website with the rest of the departments. Chief Tolan will take it into consideration.

ITEM II: Public Comment

Richard Craven - was surprised by comments he heard "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" as he agrees a plan for improvement to the anchorage is necessary.

Jay Patch – Feels the waterfront is the biggest asset to the town. He has taken pictures of other harbors to see how other anchorages are laid out. He asked if the Coast Guard had set limits to the size of the anchorage and was told that the Coast Guard had determined the boundaries. He agrees that there needs to be more organization. He is concerned about the dinghies and feels the ones the Town purchased are not safe. He was told that the Town is taking bids and has taken into consideration the current dinghies and is not planning on purchasing more of the same they are looking at large, safer ones.

Asked if there a way to use a lottery or co-op system for the dinghies. He was told that for this year, the town will be doing the "Dinghy Day" but he could bring it up for the future.

Richard Craven – Mentioned that he heard one of the dinghies was missing and was told, it was actually stolen.

Jay Patch – Asked if the Town has considered cameras at the Town Landing and Chief Tolan said that they were looking into it.

Keith Noyes – Expressed concerns that it was hard to get to the docks with dinghies. Can the Harbormaster designate the end of the dinghy dock for arriving dinghies and keep it clear. He feels that too much time is being spent on finding out whose boat is on whose mooring. He thinks it's a non-issue and the time should be spent on speeding boats, etc. He also asked if there was any consideration of what would happen if Handy Boat or Portland Yacht Club were to go away. He was told, yes, it is being considered. He also requested that the Harbormaster notify boat owners if their boat is filling with water and was told that he does that.

ITEM III: Harbormaster Report

Harbormaster Alan Twombly presented his report to the Committee.

Moorings:

Total	1212
Received	270
Not Renewing	9 (4 Town Landing, 4 Handy Boat, 1 Casco Terrace)
Waiting List	95

To date 5 mooring holders have advised they may not have boats on their moorings this year for various reasons. They were told that if they didn't put boats on next year, they could lose their moorings. They all felt this was fair.

Compliance with the new requirement of boat registration with their mooring application has been good.

He is still working on updating the information in the Muni Mooring program as applications are received. Confirming GPS coordinates, boat size and type are his primary focus.

The boat is going to Yarmouth Boat Yard on 2/16/09 for replacement of the pontoon covers and bottom paint.

He is in the process of obtaining quotes for 8 new town dinghies. To date, quotes range from \$530 - \$1495 each plus oars and oarlocks.

Chairman Archambault offered that other towns' ordinances allow for a nominal charge for a place on the waiting list. When a mooring becomes available, that fee is applied towards the mooring fee. It is an annual fee.

ITEM IV: Unfinished Business

A. Review Meeting with Mooring Companies

The meeting with the mooring companies went very well with issues raised that will be addressed over the summer.

Lucie Couture has submitted a proposal for re-aligning the mooring field. Chairman Archambault has not opened and is holding on to it.

He also has 3 proposals for launch services.

Richard Garrett feels the Long Term Plan has taken on a life of it's own and would like Councilor Libby to make it know to the Town Council that he is opposed to the plan as he feels things are working fine at the Town Landing.

Manny Kourinos agrees with Richard Garrett and is also opposed to the

Long Term Plan.

B. Review Meeting With Mooring Holder

Councilor Libby suggested a meeting to look over the plan . He also wanted to add that he has had a number of good comments on the meeting held with the mooring holders. He did, however, receive one very negative e-mail.

Chairman Archambault reminded the committee that the plan is a work in progress and is continually being changed.

Paul Dobbins suggested meeting to discuss the revised plan as many of the concerns Richard Garrett has are no longer issues as they have already been eliminated.

Chief Tolan pointed out that the study was done and the plan created as the Town Council asked for it and paid for the consultants to come up with the plan.

There was discussion and reiteration of the feelings about the plan.

Councilor Libby indicated that the plan was to be used as tool to work with and the Council will be reviewing the plan. Changes at the anchorage and to the Coastal Waters Ordinance come about by suggestion from the Committee for the Council's consideration.

Richard Garrett believes that the public views the Long Range Plan as being focused on repositioning moorings.

Paul Dobbins pointed out that it is mostly a communication problem and an overview of the vision for the anchorage and get public response.

William Oliver indicated that an article in the Forecaster focused on repositioning the moorings and added to people's perception of what the vision for the anchorage is.

Paul Dobbins and Chairman Archambault both feel another meeting with mooring holders should be held for more public input.

C. Unlisted Items

Harbormaster Twombly asked for guidance from the Committee. He has received 2 calls from people saying they would not be able to afford to belong to Handy Boat and would like to move their moorings. He thinks it might be a way for people to bypass the waiting list. There was brief

discussion and the Committee decided to table the issue for the next meeting. It was agreed that until a decision was made, the moorings would stay where they are and the owners would have to row out to their boats.

Items for next meeting agenda:

Harbormaster Twombley's mooring issue (he would like a decision at that time)

Tying dinghies to boats

Motors on dinghies

Adding to the commercial floats

ITEM V: NEW BUSINESS

A. Review Harbormaster (HM) Annual Report to Town Council

HM Twombley read through his report for the Council:

Developed SOP for notification of command staff in the event of an emergency

Memo of Understanding with US Coastguard

Signed a contract with Cumberland to provide Harbormaster services

Received \$3000 Port Security Grant to purchase boat motors

6/15 – HM Cady responded with USCJ to plane crash in Casco Bay

AHM Rick Freese cross-trained 3 police officers in boat operation

AHM Freese promoted to a new position in his full time job at the USCG and had to resign as assistant harbormaster. Ranger Brigham McKenney was promoted to AHM.

8/8 – HM Cady, AHM McKenney & Chief Tolan responded to a Casco Bay Lines Ferry run aground near Basket Island. They helped remove 90 passengers and administered medical care to a diabetic passenger

HM Cady resigned his position in October and HM Twombley filled the position beginning 10/31

New vinyl pontoon covering ordered for the boat and will be installed in March

Currently 1212 moorings (645 resident / 567 non-resident)

Harbor Personnel: HM – 40 hrs. per week, AHM – 32 hrs. per week for 13 weeks, 24 hrs. per week for 9 weeks, 2 rangers – 32 hrs. each per week

Goals – begin to verify mooring GPS coordinates to better utilize Muni-Mooring program

B. Review Harbor Committee Chair Report to town Council Significant accomplishments, completed tasks, unfinished projects

Consultant's review completed and presented to council
Development of long range plan / timeline
Review of Coastal Waters Ordinance with recommended changes
Transition to new harbormaster

Ongoing duties, tasks, charge

Continue monthly meetings
Implementation of long range plan / time line (review as needed)
Review Coastal Waters Ordinance and suggest changes as needed

Goals or work plan for ensuing year

Review progress of long range plan / timeline
Increase number of municipal dinghies
Annual informational meeting with mooring holders (1st Mon. of Feb)

Budget request

\$4800 for 6 new dinghies @\$800 each & painting

C. Review Operating Budget for Town Landing

Chief Tolan showed the operating budget for the harbor. It appears the harbor will come in on or under budget

D. Review Prospective Capital Reserve Budget for Harbor Operations

Chief Tolan explained that the revenues from the Harbor pay for the capital improvements:

Office & Pier (50 year life span, 40 years until replacement) \$900,000

Floats 19 – possible additions (8 – 10 year life span) \$390,00

Launch Ramp (15 years) \$117,00

Parking Lot – repair damage from Patriot's Day Storm \$45,000

Overlay parking lot by Town Landing Market - \$8000

Gangways (10 years) \$13,000

Boat – 10 more years \$215,000 (note – the boat was free)

Truck – 6 years - \$22, 000

Dinghies - ?

Total annual reserve contributions: \$216,000

Currently the Harbor Reserve account has \$30,000. Are still waiting on reimbursement for boat motors. At that time, the account balance will be

approx. \$45,000.

E. Unlisted Items

None

ITEM VI: Confirm date for March Committee Meeting

March Committee Meeting scheduled for 3/12/09 – 8:00 AM Falmouth Police Department

ITEM VII: Adjourn

William Oliver made a motion to adjourn, Manny Kourinos seconded, voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:25 AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Kimmerly Maxfield-Fearon