

TOWN OF FALMOUTH
Minutes of the Harbor/Waterfront Committee
Thursday, April 19, 2007
6:00 PM, Town Hall, Council Chambers

Present: Richie Garrett, Chairman Steve Archambault, Jay Hallett, Pete Leavitt, Harbormaster Kevin Cady, Police Chief Ed Tolan, and public.

Absent: Manny Kourinos, Bill Oliver, and John Winslow.

ITEM 1 Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM by Chairman Archambault. Roll call was taken.

ITEM 2 Chairperson Comments.

Chairman Archambault noted that all Public Comment will be limited to five minutes tonight which is customary under Robert's Rules of Order. Welcome to all in attendance.

ITEM 3 Review/Approval Minutes from Previous Meeting.

Minutes from March 15, 2007 were discussed. Chairman Archambault asked for the following to be noted in the record: At the last meeting, the following members should have been listed as absent: Richie Garrett, Jay Hallett, and Manny Kourinos. Also to be noted, the placement of new special anchorage buoys will be down by Diver Down. Manny from Atlantic will be taking care of the rest. After item 4, on the motion of Leavitt, seconded by Hallett, the minutes were approved unanimously with the above notations.

ITEM 4 Harbormaster Report.

Harbormaster Kevin Cady reported on updates from the Marine Unit of the Falmouth Police Department. On April 7, the town processed 30 non-resident and 60 resident dinghy applications. The process went smoothly. A non-resident disabled person asked for a dinghy permit on a waiver request after the 90 were given out. This matter was taken up with town attorney and town manager. Wanted to ensure the town was not in violation of the ADA—based on the attorney's advice, we explained to the applicant that if she abides by policy, the town would issue her the permit. Also, she will be allowed to keep a motor on her dinghy so long as it's an electric motor. On moorings, the total is 1281. 1115 have paid for 2007 and are permitted. That figure is broken up as follows: Town landing 292, Handy Boat 267, Portland Yacht Club 269 and 287 are private access. Roughly 40-50 that have been processed late and 5 or 6 of those have appealed.

There was committee discussion on access points.

On the floats pier, there system was not damaged by the recent nor'easter. There was, however, significant damage at the town landing parking lot and ramp. The ramp has been compromised is closed. Asphalt in the lot was uplifted. The town will be looking at three contractors to help us repair. The ramp will be closed for now and the goal is to get fixed within the next 10 days. Falls Point Marine will be replacing and upgrading the float system and hardware. Total cost of the project is \$24,800.00 and is underway at the landing. The town is also exploring at Working Waterfront Grant (WWG). This is to gain access for commercial fishing from the landing. This is to return a covenant to the state in return for their paying the cost of the float addition and upgrade. This matter is under discussion at the Manager/Council level and will be on the Council agenda for Monday evening April 23. The Landing office is also in need of re-staining and there is a request for bid proposals in progress on that. Finally, the police boat has undergone refurbishment and is at Handy Boat. Total cost is \$12,000. The boat is named "Edward F. Roberge" and is scheduled to launch the first week of May.

Police Chief Ed Tolan reported that previous Harbormaster John Dalton has retired from the town. A job search for a permanent replacement is underway. There has historically been a revolving door on the emergency operations/manager role affiliated with this position. The town is now going to formally merge this with the Harbormaster position. This was advertised as such. Discussed qualifications for position. This will not be advertised in the Maine Sunday Telegram because the cost is \$800 for a small ad. The Chief believes that if we can find qualified candidates in house, we do not need to advertise there and there is no requirement for advertisement in that newspaper anyway. The Chief also discussed the summer ranger position. He felt this would be a great job for a young college student. Reviewed requirements of the position. There were some concerns about the person being alone on the job. The Chief affirmed this would be an infrequent occurrence.

There was discussion about both job positions.

ITEMS 5-7 Introduction of Consultants and Overview of Waterfront Study followed by public comment. The Chairman welcomed Nate Kermesse and Greg Rorabach of Northeast Engineers and Consultants in Rhode Island and Andrew Johnson of STYDesigns of Cumberland. A presentation on the upcoming waterfront study was made. The qualifications of both companies were discussed. Three points were raised about the waterfront. The first was the amount of the dinghies there and the safety issues around this. The second issue is the spacing of moorings in the harbor. The third issue is parking for the mooring holders. This includes access to the town landing facility. The consultants

feel that they can help address these matters. Northeast Engineers will be working with STYDesigns to help the town develop a long-term plan for management and operations of the waterfront. The proposed plan schedule: April 19, introduction and public meeting, April 23-August 30, GIS data, Harbor Layout, and obtain grant money. June 15-August 30, conduct boat and car traffic studies, boat/dinghy use studies, mooring use, access analysis. September 7-14. Incorporate August Boat/Traffic Data. Incorporate Committee Comments. Presentation for Public Forum. Look at the future. Study the impact of some possibilities for what could occur if xxx occurred at the town landing. Finally, September 14-28, incorporate public comments and deliver final report to the town.

Chairman Archambault thanked the presenters for their hard worked and preparation and asked for public comment. Some public comment and public discussion was made.

Chairman Archambault ended the public forum. **Pete Leavitt** expressed disappointed that there was not more public interest in this subject since this is such an exciting plan.

ITEM 8 Unfinished Business: Discussion of Mooring Winterization Process and Winter Safety Ladder. Both matters tabled until next meeting.

ITEM 9 New Business

A. Proposed aquaculture project—Mark Green is proposing that the town conduct this project in Falmouth. Mr. Green is a resident of Peaks Island and professor at St. Joseph’s College. Marine science is a specialty for him. By 2048 most commercial fish will be going into the ocean. He is interested in ways that we can farm the ocean in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way. This is known as aquaculture. He would like to put together a limited purpose aquaculture license. This would grant him access to a 20 foot by 20 foot raft for this exploration. This raft would sit in the harbor and have a light on it. The research being done is being financed personally and through a National Science Foundation grant as well as Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center. The rafts would be in the harbor until the town directs them to be taken away.

There were questions from the committee and some discussion. Chairman Archambault and the committee decided by consensus that the next step is to see the lobstermen get together with the shellfish committee—Kevin will do the scheduling for this. Get the information back to committee from that meeting. Also solicit input from committee members not present tonight before moving forward. (Richie Garrett left the meeting. Quorum was lost, however the meeting continued since nothing was voted on.)

- B. Proposed Launch Service.** Captain Keith Fossler of North Atlantic Service made a presentation. He gave background about their company. Mr. Fossler expressed that his company would be interested in making a proposal to the town for a trial launch service. He asked the committee to decide what type of service they would be interested in providing. Several questions were raised. Chairman Archambault advised we are not sure where we stand on this matter but he offered Mr. Fossler the chance to come up with a couple of proposals to be reviewed in the future.
- C. Review of Mooring Inspection Process.** Since Bill Oliver is not present tonight, this matter will be tabled until the next meeting.
- D. Discussion of special circumstances re: dinghy storage.** This matter will be tabled until the next meeting.
- E. Appeals to waive late mooring fees.** Since there is no longer a quorum, this matter will be tabled until the next meeting. There was some committee discussion about the status of appeals.

ITEM 10 **Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 17, 2007 at 8:00 AM in Town Hall, Council Chambers.

ITEM 11 **Adjourn.** On the motion of Hallett, seconded by Leavitt, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan J. Anderson
Falmouth Deputy Town Clerk

These minutes are not a verbatim transcript of the committee meeting. To hear a recorded copy of the meeting, please contact the Town Clerk's office at 781-5253.