Harbor/Waterfront Committee Minutes May 16, 2006

Members present: Chairperson Maura McGowan, Richard Garrett, Peter Leavitt, Stephen Archambault, Jay Hallett, Bill Oliver

Staff Present: Chief Ed Tolan, Assistant Harbormasters Kevin Cady and Rick Freese

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson McGowan at 6:00pm

Public Forum: David Tirajo inquired about a mooring application he submitted on Feb. 16th, 2006. He informed the committee he was not requesting a transfer of a mooring, only a new mooring permit. Chief Tolan advised Mr. Tirajo that since he was a PYC member and would not be accessing from Town Landing, he would be permitted to receive a mooring permit.

Danny Groves, owner of Town Landing Market, requested 4 parking spaces for his employees at the Town Parking lot on Rt. 88. He said he has limited parking behind his store for customers and employees especially on the weekends. Chief Tolan explained that town stickers could not be issued to non-residents and that residents complain about the number of cars parked in the lots without town stickers.

Peter Leavitt suggested that parking passes be issued to the Town Landing Market for employees who can't get a nonresident parking spot and that the committee vote on the issue during new business.

Mark Smith inquired about the town council's reason behind issuing 30 mooring permits to Handy Boat because the moratorium would drastically affect its Marina business. Jay Hallett stated that 30 moorings had been issued to Handy Boat. Mr. Smith said he operates a marina, and that he pays insurance that states that.

Peter Leavitt explained that even with a marina license, additional moorings cannot be issued if you are accessing from Town Landing.

Chief Tolan read the definition of a Marina from the Falmouth Coastal Waters Ordinance.

Mr. Smith felt there wasn't a lot of congestion at Town Landing except on weekends and certain holidays. He said he feels for people who want to have a boat but can't afford to join PYC or Handy Boat.

Chief Tolan stated that from 1995-2005 there had been a 50% increase in boats in the anchorage.

Stephen Archambault explained that the committee would be studying the moratorium and the identification of access points. And that the pressure being put on Town Landing isn't the same as Handy Boat or PYC.

Jay Hallett asked if a mooring is pulled out could it be replaced, Maura McGowan explained that moorings could not be replaced at town landing while the moratorium was in effect.

Mark Smith stated that a moratorium could a cause problem of enforcement because people will illegally rent moorings.

Manny Kominos thought there wasn't a problem with trash at the landing. He questioned why he wasn't considered for a position on the HC when he applied in 2004. Maura McGowan said she never saw his application and that all the applicants that were considered applied in 2005-2006. It was suggested he speak with the town clerk and complete a new application this year.

Approval of Minutes- April 28th, 2006

On a motion (Garrett), duly second (Leavitt) (6 Ayes) as follows: "To approve the Harbor/Waterfront Committee minutes for April 28, 2006"

Harbormaster's Report

Assistant Harbor Master Rick Freese submitted and presented the Harbormaster Report to the committee.

Old Business

The town Council requested the committee's input on the final language of the proposed moratorium at the workshop following the harbor committee meeting. After a discussion on the moratorium it was decided that Maura McGowan would ask the council why the current language on the proposed amendment did not include the 30 mooring permits for HB and 10 for PYC.

New Business

Mr. Leavitt suggested that the committee issue 4 parking spaces to Town Landing Market. Motion was made by McGowan, seconded by Leavitt, to issue 4 parking passes to Town Landing Market for 2006. Voted 6-0 (1 absent)

Maura McGowan submitted the mooring survey update completed so far.

Sub-committee reports:

Richie Garrett said his committee had been discussing the changes for redefining the anchorage which they want to present to the Coast Guard at a public hearing. He feels it is a done deal with the guard and it will not influence their decision. Others think differently. The sub-committee is trying to help the yacht club get their moorings in front of the club.

Peter Leavitt gave an overview of the timing for dinghy, launch and Parking. The dinghy/launch service proposal is to be effective summer of '07 and the parking and shuttle service to begin the summer of '08.

Steve Archambault explained that inquiries were being made to several transportation companies regarding the cost for a shuttle service based on a 13 week, 8am-9pm schedule. One written response has been received. He also mentioned possible locations for a satellite parking lot. Wood Street and the lot in front of the old Shaw's seemed to be the most plausible locations for now. He will continue to gather information on both subjects.

Next meeting: June 13th at 6:00pm in the conference room

Motion to adjourn by Garrett, seconded by Oliver. Voted 6-0