

Falmouth Harbor/Waterfront Committee Meeting
Minutes 6/11/09

Roll Call: 8:00 AM

Stephen Archambault, William Oliver, Jay Hallett, Paul Dobbins, Manny Kourinos

Absent: Peter Leavitt

Also present: Alan Twombly, Harbormaster and Kim Maxfield-Fearon, minutes taker

Public present: 4

Item I: Chairperson Comments:

Chairperson Archambault passed around copies of a draft letter to the council from Dick Sweeney in reference to the moratorium issue at the landing.

Richard Garrett, Chief Tolan and Stephen Archambault attended the town council meeting on 5/26. Few questions were asked by council. They relayed Manny's concerns that the expanding needs of the Town Landing are not being addressed in the manner as other areas of the town. The council noted that this is true. Hopefully it will be addressed as there were several public comments on the subject. The need for parking was relayed and the town council will look for ways to solicit neighborhood feelings on the problem.

Steve Archambault reminded the committee that the Volunteer Appreciation banquet is going to be held on 6/17 at the Portland Country Club.

Item II: Review/ Approve Minutes of 5/14/09 Meeting

William Oliver made a motion to approve the minutes of the 5/14/09 meeting, Paul Dobbins seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Item III: Public Comment

Richard Craven of Oxford Woods Road spoke reference the interest of deepening the launch area. He produced an article on the wharf owners in Portland regarding the removal of silt near the shore. The article discussed the 2 kinds of spoil – channel spoil which can be disposed of in usual manners and near shore spoil (with accumulated toxins from run off) which requires expensive testing and different disposal methods due to the impact on the environment. The Portland wharf owners are considering creating a special dumping area which is also expensive. He will forward this article electronically to Chairperson Archambault who will forward it to the committee members.

Dick Sweeney of Allen Avenue Ext. spoke re a letter he was sending to the council about the Town Landing and the moratorium issue and the growing waiting list. He

referred to a 2006 Town Report which also cites this issue as one authorized by the town council for the harbor committee to be address (by 2007) and feels no progress has been made towards a resolution. He expressed his concerns with the town buying free space, creating trails, gazebos, etc but not taking care of the “cash cow” (Town Landing).

Stephen Archambault said that the committee understands his issue and that the committee is just as frustrated as the citizens. Feels part of the problem is the continually changing town council.

Stephen Archambault related that what is needed is citizen input at the council meetings to address these concerns.

Mr. Sweeney has finalized his letter to the council and it is being forwarded to them. He will forward a copy of the final letter to Chairperson Archambault and to the Harbormaster.

Richard Garrett wanted it noted for the record that he is grateful for the council and what they do.

Keith Noyes of Gray Road asked if it would be okay for people to park at the Brown property while decisions are being made of what to do with it. He was told that parking was not allowed at this time until decisions were made for the property. He asked if that was an official statement or coming from individual committee meetings. He was told that it was through the Town Manager.

Item IV: Harbormaster Report

Harbormaster Alan Twombly gave his report.

The application process has finally come to an end.

There are a number of people not putting boats out this year due mostly to financial issues. He has explained the ordinance but is allowing a certain amount of grace due to the economy.

Moorings:

Total (including new)	1164
Received	1160
New	22
Waiting List	108

Not Renewing by Access Location

Town Landing	21
Handy Boat	26
PYC	7
Private	14

Total 68 (Not subtracting 22 new)

Down approx. 46 moorings from last year. Kevin Cady said that in prior years the average was 30 moorings per year not being renewed so we are not that far off from past. Most are not being removed for economic reasons.

Pulled for non-payment

Four moorings are being pulled because of non-payment, subsequent to two postcards, one certified letter and two phone calls.

Dinghies

We still have 4 resident dinghy permits left.

To date there are 34 dinghies on the dinghy dock with only 7 having motors. At this time the motors are being left up and we are monitoring for damage. If it becomes a problem we will call or post signs that motors must be left down.

Stephen Archambault asked if there were any problems with the new requirement of registrations with mooring permits. Were there discrepancies? Harbormaster said there were some discrepancies and one will be giving up his mooring, others will be purchasing boats. There were only a handful of issues. Is having the affect that the committee was hoping for.

Jay Hallett asked for a breakdown of the 22 new moorings. Harbormaster told him that he didn't have it with him but most of the new ones were accessing through Handy Boat.

Elizabeth Rudenberg of asked for clarification on the ordinance as to whether it was 2 moorings per person or household. It is 2 per person. Harbormaster indicated that people are not being taken off the mooring list due to the space in the anchorage, there is plenty of room. The issue is the shore side access and parking. There are people in the neighborhood that could walk to the landing but cannot get moorings. That is an issue that has been looked at but do not have a way to determine what the radius would be and the issue of people being honest about how they're getting to the landing. There's no way to monitor.

Dick Sweeney it sounds like the committee is working on resolving the matter. He pointed out that at Kittery Point, Pepperill Cove; the wait list for residents is 11 years and probably never for non-residents. He said that they allow people to use someone's unused mooring so long as they (the user) maintain it and make sure it's inspected. But if the next year the mooring owner wants it, you're back to square one and have to find another mooring to use.

Stephen Archambault pointed out that it is a violation of state law which states that moorings are for sole use. You can't rent it out, loan it out, or lease it out. If you are looking to have a rental mooring, you need to get a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Richard Garrett said that in Falmouth has a mandatory mooring inspection requirement every 2 years.

Dick Sweeney felt that if someone's not using their mooring, we should let someone else use it, and do it legally.

Stephen Archambault said that the town will not pay the cost for getting the permit so if anyone is going to try it, they will have to bear the costs of the permit and maintenance.

Dick Sweeney said he felt that the word should be put out on this option.

Item V: Unfinished Business

- A. Discuss methods of neighborhood input on expending parking (Goal to develop recommendations for town council).

After very brief discussion it was decided the committee has made recommendations and it is now up to the council to make some decisions on how to proceed.

- B. Discussion on Expiration date of Commercial Hauler Permits

Per the Coastal Waters Ordinance 9-94G.3 – \$250 annual fee with no expiration date. The committee suggests making the date 12/31 instead of 5/31 which is on the permits. Richard Garrett felt it should be left alone. Harbormaster stated that it is a moot point at this time as the commercial haulers have bought their permits for this year. It can be taken up next year if the committee would like to.

William Oliver made a motion to remove it from the agenda, Richard Garrett seconded but it appears no motion was needed.

- C. Discussion on GIS Database (Do we want a demonstration)

Harbormaster has had no time to work on this due to a heavy workload at the landing. Stephen Archambault asked if the company would give a demo and Alan said probably they would not come back to do a demo unless it was a make or break deal for the council. He said that once things slowed down a little at the landing, they would work with the program and be able to give the committee a demo. Will move for further discussion.

- D. Unlisted items

None

Item VI: New Business

A. Discussion to amend summer meeting schedule

Paul Dobbins expressed concerns that if a decision needed to be made by August on the online mooring program this might be a problem. There was discussion on the software and GIS program. Harbormaster said that the program can work with the grid system that the consulting firm provided. There would be a possible ordinance change (rate increase) to cover the \$5.00 fee assessed by the online company. Paul Dobbins suggested that the postage saved might be factored into it causing a lower rate increase.

With little further discussion it was recommended that the July and August meetings be cancelled.

Jay Hallett made a motion that the committee skip the July and August meetings with the understanding that if something came up a meeting might be called. Motion seconded by Richard Garrett, voted and approved unanimously.

B. Unlisted Items

William Oliver said that the town is currently using chain on the moorings and asked that with the long term plan implementation discussions/grid plan other options such as synthetic, bungee type line be looked at. He would like this on the agenda for discussion.

Dick Sweeney said that in the Pacific they are putting in systems that are driven down into the ground and using synthetic cables. There is no swing and the cost is approx. \$700 per mooring.

Stephen Archambault asked William Oliver to look into it for the next meeting. The Harbormaster agreed that we should have a stance on the subject in case someone asks about it.

Manny Kourinos said to check with the National Marine Fishing services to make sure floating line is allowed.

Item VII: Confirm date for Next Meeting

Next meeting scheduled for September 10, 2009, 6:00 PM at the Falmouth Police Department.

It was mentioned that there was positive feedback from mooring holders over the whole dinghy process and the new dinghies.

Item VIII: Adjourn

Jay Hallett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Richard Garrett, voted and unanimously agreed on. Meeting adjourned at 8:45.