

Harbor Committee Minutes
June 13, 2006

Meeting call to Order by MM at 0600p with all members being present with KC and CT representing Town Staff. Several residents were present to voice concerns and Public comment was open with a 5 minute limit on speaking.

Lyman Kennedy voiced concerns on limited input from the Fishermen and they are being treated poorly stemming from an incident that happened at the landing.

CT addressed his concerns on the incident, and to bring the matter to his office. Lyman also stated concerns allowing TLM employees privileged parking at the Town Lot when parking is at a premium. The congestion of dinghies at the Dock also needs attention.

Frank Soule spoke to agree with Lyman.

Walter Libby had a couple of questions on moorings, #1 Inspection and the associated cost. #2 Boats that are in to close with a long scope .

Paul Lavigne expressed his concerns of the direction of the Town favoring Recreational Boaters over the Fishermen.

SA commented that this is a new Committee and that all voices are being heard and that the Committee understands that there is a lot of work that needs to be done to derive at a comprehensive plan.

Parker Poole stated that no Fishermen on the Committee and there should be one.

Miles Mance had questions on start-up of a launch service and was told to get in contact with the Shuttle – Launch sub-committee.

MM closed the floor for Public comment.

The May meeting minutes were handed out for review followed by a motion to accept the minutes. Vote was taken to accept minutes and passed.

JW remarked that the Committee needs to respect the Public and there input.

CT gave an overview of issues and stated the appropriations of up to \$40,000 from the Council to be used by the Committee for consultants.

KC explained that there have been 16 moorings previously inspected by HM Dalton and that this practice can no longer happen do to Liability issue. Kevin handed out 2 notices. One notice identifying the Registered Mooring Co. and the other explaining Liability issues for the Town to the Mooring Co.'s .

CT had received a call from Skip Varney from the Parks and Rec. of complaints of barges, floats and gear being left on the beach.

Dialogue amongst the Committee to understand this issue and to establish protocol for the Fishermen and Mooring Co.'s.

John C., Fisherman explained to the committee the lobster float process and it's importance.

CT responded that this complaint came thru the Parks and Rec. from property owners not from the Rec. Boaters.

Continued dialogue with committee on this issue.

KC handed out current mooring waiting list and commented on that.

JW brought attention to the Ordinance in sec 9-94 that the HM shall inspect moorings, and that should receive new definition along with the term Anchorage. The Anchorage is defined all tidal waters of the Town of Falmouth. The Ordinance also states that maximum speed in the Anchorage is 5 knots. JW demonstrated this as to the need to overhaul the Ordinance.

CT said that the committee has undertaken the need to go thru the Ordinance and to make the necessary recommended changes to the Council in a timely fashion this Fall.

KC Has written no summonses but has issued warnings for water violations and in hopes to get the public up to speed for water safety.

CT acknowledges that there has been actions or lack of in the past that can no longer be accepted as to create a fairness to all.

PL Question in regards to people bringing late fee disagreements to the Committee.

It was agreed upon the Committee that this should done in person at the Public Forum portion of the meeting.

Joe Shcola, commercial fisherman from Falmouth and fishes out of Portland had questions on Town Landing and presented to the Committee that Fishermen, due to rezoning in Portland are being forced to look elsewhere for water access.

CT Handed out the working budget for the HC and explained its details.

It was formerly announced by Chief Tolan along with dedicated work from his staff that Falmouth is the proud recipient of a surplus Hard Bottom 22-23 ft. inflatable from the USCG with all operational equipment. The cost to the Town being transaction fee and

working with the USCG on Homeland Port Security. KC commented that was an important bargaining factor.

The committee had dialogue on the options for the future of the old HM boat. The Fire Department showed no interest in the boat. One option was to keep it for back-up. CT mentioned that the Town of Camden was looking for a Pump-out boat that was an option for a sale. The consensus of the committee is to place the boat For Sale.

MM gave out a hand out on the language of the moratorium.

Committee had discussion on proof of access point and application information changes.

Dave Libby entertained discussion on New Business as to the acceptable procedures in which the committee needs to adhere to when conducting it's business.

MM opened discussion for BO as to PYC retaining mooring space in front of PYC as mooring space becomes available in that location. After extended discussion from the committee it was an informal agreement thru the HM office to set this in motion.

RG opened discussion as to the need to set definition in the anchorage as to keep TL access at TL, PYC access in front of PYC and HBS access in front of HBS. RG questioned where the USCG now stands on this issue and that the sub-committee has compiled information to present to compose an RFP.

Dave Libby expressed the urgency to get this to the level of a RFP.

Committee conducted discussion on what is required to create an RFP to move forward with a Anchorage Plan.

JH presented the view of the sub-committee in identifying the objectives of the balance between land access and water use in order to gather the necessary information to move forward.

Pat Miele gave input on how important it is to define the guidelines for an RFP to establish the most constructive consultant.

PL motioned for the sub-committee to write a RFP before the next HC meeting for review by the entire Committee.

SA seconded the motion . The vote was in full support.

Dave Libby commented that due to the importance of the workings of the HC that all meetings should be noticed.

Dialogue from the committee followed.

JW spoke on his findings on the on-going violations in the mooring field that need to be addressed so that it is fair to all.

CT Commented that the need for an Ordinance review is desperately needed.

RG expressed concerns that the approach to people at the Landing need to be done cautiously.

Dialogue on this issue continued with discussion.

JW brought the idea of sending out a letter to all mooring holders of the changes that are taking place along the waterfront.

Pat Miele suggested an interview with the Falmouth Forecaster would go far with public relations.

MM moved a motion to have SA Draft a letter of violations that will be sent out to mooring holders with approval of the committee.

CT had idea for having mooring permits go for two years and coincide with the two year inspection process.

JW brought up to go with that idea, push up the date in which permit applications are due maybe like April 1st as not to conflict with other administrative operations.

PL suggested the possibility of on line registration.

CT would like the committee to give thought before next meeting.

Under new business, Peter Connolly appeal to waive late fee.

SA moved a motion to deny late fee. Motion seconded, vote to accept

Next meeting scheduled for June 27 @ 0600p at Town Hall

MM handed out mooring survey results

RG moved a motion to adjourn the, seconded, vote to adjourn @ 0810p

Abbreviations MM – Maura McGowan, RG - Richie Garrett, JW – John Winslow, PL – Peter Leavitt, SA – Steve Archambault, BO – Bill Oliver, JH – Jay Hallet , CT – Chief Tolan, KC – Kevin Cady , HM – Harbor Master , HC- Harbor Committee, TL – Town Landing, PYC - Portland Yacht Club, HBS – Handy Boat Service, TLM – Town Landing Market.

Cordially submitted
John Winslow