

**Falmouth Harbor/Waterfront Committee
Meeting Minutes 9/10/09**

ROLL CALL

Members present: Steve Archambault, Jay Hallett, Peter Leavitt, Richie Garrett, Manny Kourinos, Paul Dobbins, Harbormaster Twombly, and (new) Council Liaison Fred Chase.

Absent: William Oliver

CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

No agenda ready as Chairperson Archambault is having computer problems.

ITEM I: Review/Approve Minutes of 6/11/09 meeting

Motion Garrett made and seconded Leavitt. No discussion. Voted and approved.

ITEM II: Public Comment

Seeing none present, will close it. Chairperson Archambault had expected people to comment on the waiting list as Harbormaster Twombly had received some complaints.

Peter Leavitt asked if those on waiting list should be informed that the moratorium will be in place until there is more parking available and currently the only hope is the decision about the Brown property and they should attend the meeting on the 21st. Harbormaster Twombly said that the town is sending a letter to everyone on the waiting list.

Discussion on waiting list and various alternative access points. However Harbormaster is not giving access to those who live on Underwood who don't have shore access on their property.

ITEM III: Harbormaster Report

Also has no written report due to computer issues:

Waiting list is up to 116
Resident 70something

Summer went well, no major catastrophes. Still have 3 resident dinghy permits left over. At peak of summer had the rangers count dinghies and there were only 62. So only about 2/3 of the people who purchased dinghy permits put their dinghies out on the dock this year, or at least they didn't have them out all summer. Out of those, 7 – 8 had motors. Only 1 motor

incident, but that was during a storm. However, no damage was done to anyone's boat.

Getting new sewer pump out as the old one has not been working. DEP will be paying \$15,000 for the new pump. Will be putting it on the float instead of the pier this time. The way it was explained to him is that this way it will be pushing the sewerage instead of pulling it so no matter what tide, there will be plenty of pressure.

Steve Archambault: Straight grant?

Alan Twombly: Yes, straight grant. Will put it in this fall, and they will train a couple people from our sewer department to maintain and trouble shoot the system. This way we don't have to wait for out of state repair people to come. If the DEP were informed, it could cost \$1000 per day that it was down.

Peter Leavitt asked how the town dinghies did this year. Harbormaster Twombly said that we didn't lose any, in fact thanks to Richie Garrett, we found one. The one that was lost or stolen last fall was found over on Sturdevant Island on a mooring on July 5th after the big party. It had been on shore somewhere because the bottom was filthy. It had been tipped upside down somewhere. Somebody used it and left it there. Only needed 5 of the 6 purchased this year and thinks that maybe the town dinghies are the reason that there were so few private dinghies.

Discussion on the dinghies indicated that comments from public are that the town dinghies are so much easier than bringing your own.

Steve Archambault wanted to know why there is always one tied up to the commercial float. He was told that the commercial fishermen use them too. Discussion on where they are left and being collected by the rangers.

Steve Archambault asked about pulled moorings. Harbormaster Twombly said he pulled about six in June but hasn't had to pull any more since. Pete Leavitt wanted to know if he has been monitoring unused moorings. He said he did as best he can. It's difficult to tell. The only way he could do it was by looking at pennants. However, even then, pennants can get pretty dirty very quickly. He did take some time to check them and found a page and a half of moorings with dirty pennants, but that could mean they just haven't been used in a couple weeks.

Steve Archambault asked how many people told him that they were not going to be using their moorings this year. Harbormaster Twombly said about 25 or 30. He feels that a quarter to a third weren't used this year. Peter Leavitt asked how to turn those empty spaces into useful spaces to help with the mooring list. Harbormaster didn't know but Peter Leavitt said everyone should think about it over the next few months.

Discussion followed on monitoring moorings and how to determine if they are unused. Suggestions on how to determine who is and isn't using their mooring were made and but no decisions on the subject at this time. One suggestion was tying something to the pennant, perhaps something like caution tape.

Funding for the Fleer – Still waiting on the funding. Will need to contact Senator Collins' office to find out where the money is. The funding is for 2 new motors and a forward looking infrared system. Former Harbormaster Kevin Cady is the one who got the grant through Port Security at the time but we are still waiting on the money.

Will be getting a lap top computer for the boat this week and will be connected through an air card to the system and will be able to work from the boat.

Still working on the database. Are still looking at options. Have one company in mind but are working out some bugs. Are not using Munimooring as the system is terrible. Should have better information at the next meeting.

Parking – someone suggested that perhaps on the busy days have someone stationed at the lot checking stickers and moving vehicles along.

Rangers – worked out well. He discovered that Monday & Tuesday he doesn't need them but will schedule them for the rest of the week. They handed out parking tickets. Initially they gave out a lot of tickets per day, but as time went on they were only handing out a few a day.

Discussion on possibility of having vehicle towed from the Town Landing. Discussion on parking / towing in general. The committee was polled as to whether they would support a towing law and in general they were in support. Continued discussion on parking and the possibility of a towing ordinance through the Town Council.

Paul Dobbins wanted to make the trailer parking only area more clearly marked, and interpreted – cars with trailers? Trailers only, no cars? He would like to come up with a solution before next summer. Paul will work on that for next meeting.

Jay Hallett – waiting list. Do we ask any questions of the people? Do they have boats, etc? Feels that maybe they should have a boat before they can go on mooring. Steve Archambault said perhaps there is a provision that says they must have a boat within two weeks of receiving their mooring. A

Is there a way to find out where on the mooring list people are? Harbor aster Twombly said yes, they can call and find out.

Do we check the mooring list to see if those on the list still want to be there?
Asst. Harbormaster Brigham McKenney has started working on that.

More discussion on the mooring list and management of it.

Fred Leighton said that the waiting list will possibly influence what happens to the Brown Property as there are 116 people who would benefit from use of it. There will need to be a showing from them at the meeting. He has heard from a neighbor who doesn't want to provide parking for non-residents. He asked how long it would be before no non-residents would be on the waiting list. He was told that the non-residents go to the end of the list.

Harbormaster was asked how many open mooring spaces were currently in the anchorage. There are quite a few, all pretty far out but he didn't have a figure. Mr. Leighton felt that that would be good information to have for the meeting on the 21st to help justify the need for more parking.

Discussion on how far out the moorings would be and how to access them and the grid work for the anchorage.

Jay Hallett was concerned for the area residents if there were more parking there would be more impact on their neighborhoods. Discussion on this topic.

Fred Leighton suggested asking for part of the property now and part later. The Brown property is 3.5 acres.

Chairperson Archambault said the committee never expected all the property. Per the consultant, to support that current number of people accessing their moorings through the Town Landing, additional 97 – 118 parking spaces are needed. That is without expanding the anchorage. Once the land side facilities can accommodate the current moorings, then the council can consider whether or not to expand the mooring field with the understanding that the landside facilities will have to be adjusted accordingly.

It was discussed that the neighborhoods should be made more aware of the facts surrounding the proposed additional parking and the uses for it other than just boaters such as beach patrons, etc.

Steve Archambault said that the hard data and grid work should be out there in order for an informed decision to be made about the future expansion / uses of the area.

Mr. Leighton feels the council is going to be sensitive to the wants of the neighborhood.

ITEM IV: Committee support of a scofflaw

5 – 1 in favor in a polling of the town council considering a town wide scofflaw. The chief of police supports this idea.

Next meeting 9/21/09 – 6:00 at church for Brown Property meeting.

Next meeting – set a winter agenda

Thank Alan for his good work

ITEM V: Confirm date and time for next meeting

October 8, 2009 8:00 AM at Police Station, there will be elections on the agenda.

Adjourn motioned, 2nded, voted on.