

Falmouth Harbor/Waterfront Committee Meeting
Minutes 10/8/09

Roll Call

Present: Richie Garrett, Bill Oliver, Stephen Archambault, Paul Dobbins, Manny Kourinous,

Absent: Pete Leavitt, Jay Hallett (will be late)

Also Present: Harbormaster Alan Twombly,

Members of the public: John Winslow, Keith Noyes, Richard Craven

Item I: Chairperson Comments

The Brown Property meeting was interesting. He did not bring the scofflaw ordinance information with him. He asked if Bill Oliver will still be the PYC rep and he will have to check with board of directors. The committee will have to hold elections of officers today. Steve Archambault is willing to stay on as chair if no one else wants the position.

Harbormaster Twombly wanted to interject that in reference to the scofflaw proposal, it has been said that Chief Tolan is in support of this law and he wanted it known that although he has proposed it in the past and it has been resoundingly shot down, he is not in total support of this proposal. He feels it will be shot down again and the committee might want to recommend a tow law which will specifically apply to the harbor.

Item II: Review/Approve Minutes of 9/10/09 Meeting

Bill Oliver made a motion to approve the minutes, Paul Dobbins seconded it. Minutes approved.

Item III: Election of Committee Officers

Chairperson: Motion made and seconded that Steve Archambault stay on as chair. Voted and approved.

Chairperson: Motion made and seconded that Richard Garrett stay on as vice-chair. Voted and approved.

Secretary: Motion made and seconded to vote in Bill Oliver as secretary. Voted and approved.

Item IV: Public Comment

Keith Noyes wanted it noted that Alan Twombly did a good job this year at the landing.

Richard Craven apologized for not making it to the Brown Property meeting in support of additional parking. He is, however, concerned over the addition of parking spaces required (per the consultant) during peak times which will be vacant most of the time.

John Winslow wanted to know how the boat moorings would be affected by the new Maine tax law going into effect in November, which Steve Archambault didn't have an answer for. He is concerned that there is going to be another tax associated with having a boat mooring. He also wanted to know if there was a copy of the mooring placement plan. Steve Archambault told him know, that was still being worked on. He was also concerned with people putting unauthorized moorings in the Presumpscot River area. Harbormaster Twombly assured him that they were keeping an eye on that sort of thing. Mr. Winslow also wanted to ask about discussion on the type of boat on the mooring, what was that about. That will be discussed in the report.

Item V: Harbormaster Report

A. General Anchorage

Mooring totals and waiting list have not changed:
1166 moorings
116 on the waiting list of which 77 are residents

B. Discuss/Define approved type of boats allowed on moorings

C. Discuss ordinance recommendation concerning dinghies attached to moored boats.

Due to an incident which occurred during a recent storm, a sailboat with a dinghy attached was involved in contact with another boat. He would like to recommend to the town council an ordinance change addressing dinghies attached to moored boats.

It has been discussed and been agreed that since there haven't been causing a problem, that they were allowed. Knowing that there is nothing in the ordinance and now there is an incident.

Bill Oliver commented on this and feels that since there will be a lot of backlash over this as there are very few that keep do this and feels it would be wrong to make an across the board change for one incident. Perhaps change the ordinance to deal with the issue as opposed to eliminate dinghies tied to boats such as requiring enough swing room.

Richie Garrett commented that cruising and power boat owners are concerned about explosions, what happens is you jump in the dinghy to escape.

Alan would just like a ruling on this from the council on this issue as he doesn't want the responsibility of having to approve each and every one.

Steve Archambault suggested taking this into consideration when the mooring field is reconfigured. He suggested discussing this at next meeting.

Paul Dobbins suggested getting input from other people on the issue.

Manny wants to leave it as is.

D. Discussion on disposition of unused moorings during 2009 season

He has had questions from mooring holders who would like to moor their canoes on their moorings instead of their big boats. He can't find anything in the ordinance which addresses this issue. His concern is that this type of small boat is more susceptible to wind, rain, etc. and are more likely to be overturned and become a hazard. He would like the council to amend the ordinance to not allow canoes, kayaks, etc. to left on the moorings for extended periods of time.

Alan pointed out that if people didn't put their boats out because they couldn't afford to run them this year and weren't allowed to put canoes, etc. on them, they could lose their moorings and they would go to someone on the waiting list.

Perhaps define long period of time. Suggestion was a week or two.

Steve Archambault suggested that the ordinance be amended to state something to the effect that canoes, dinghies, and kayaks cannot be the primary boat assigned to a mooring.

Discussion on whether or not this could be done for next season or not.

Steve Archambault will work on wording for the next meeting.

Harbormaster showed the committee information on the new mooring program the town is considering.

Harbormaster has a list of people who did not put boats out this year but does not intend to do it next year. He will not be doing this next due to the fact that there are people on the waiting list who could be using the unused moorings.

It was agreed that this is Alan's call and that there needs to be something done to move people off the waiting list.

Steve Archambault has looked at other town ordinances and some require the boat owner to maintain a log.

Item VI: Unfinished Business

A. Waiting List Clean up

Brigham McKenney had been working on calling people on the waiting list but is done for the season and the harbormaster will continue as time permits.

B. Discussion on Brown Property Meeting

Richie Garrett said that it's in the hands of the council and up to them at this point.

Paul Dobbins feels that everyone will win and there will be a compromise but it's up to the council at this time.

Steve also feels that everyone will win and let the item ride as is.

C. Unlisted Items

Paul Dobbins feels he has come up with 7 new parking spaces and passed out his suggestion. He believes that most people interpret "trailer parking only" to include the vehicle. If that is not to be the case, a sticker should be put on the signs telling people to detach their vehicles from the trailers.

His plan was well received. He was asked to do a little more research on the safety of the plan.

Item VII: Unfinished business

A. Discussion on winter meeting schedule

Steve suggested a November meeting, take off December, have a January meeting and then decide if a February meeting is necessary but plan for January and March.

B. Unlisted items

Paul Dobbins asked about mooring stickers – are we going to buy stickers this year? Alan said no, with the on line mooring program he can look it up easily.

There was a request for a demonstration of the mooring program which couldn't be done at this time due to a lightening strike at town hall the IT person was unable to set it up.

Steve wanted to let Alan know that he did a great job.

Next year the rangers will patrol the parking lot

John Winslow was allowed to comment on request to leave small boats on the moorings and asked if they would have to change their applications to state that the small boat was assigned to the mooring. Alan told him his understanding was that it would be the case.

Item VIII: confirm date for next meeting: November 12th, 8:00 AM, Falmouth Police Station

Meeting date confirmed

Adjourn

Bill Oliver made a motion to adjourn, Richie Garrett seconded. Voted and approved. Meeting adjourned.