

**FALMOUTH HARBOR/WATERFRONT COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2013 8:00 AM
FALMOUTH TOWN HALL**

ROLLCALL

Present: Richard Garrett, Alan Twombly, Richard Craven, Kenneth Walberg, Jay Hallett, Emmanuel Kourinos, Kimmerly Maxfield-Fearon

Absent: Paul Dobbins, Peter Thornton, William Oliver

Members of the public: 1

I CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Chairperson Garrett wanted to say that he thought the summer went well at the harbor this year. He was very happy with the fundraising of the Tuna Derby and the MS Regatta. Great for the community, didn't know that Southern Maine Community College gets most of the money from the Tuna Derby. He feels that things went very smoothly.

II APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2013 MEETING

Jay Hallett made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2013 Harbor Waterfront Committee meeting, Richard Craven seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Doyle of Shady Lane wanted to complement the committee for moving to an open meeting room and from the locked room at the police station. He also wanted to complement them for taking control of the operation of the police boat. He has no reports of it going out beyond Portland Headlight. Commented on conversations he has had with Chairperson Garrett on possibly putting surveillance cameras at the landing to keep an eye on the anchorage and have it feed into the police station. He said people have expressed concerns about people being robbed at night at the anchorage. He has spoken with Chairperson Garrett about this problem. Mr. Garrett does not believe there is a problem, but Mr. Doyle said people have complained to him. He offered to look into the cost of this equipment to see what he can come up with for competitive bids.

IV HARBORMASTER REPORT

Moorings

Total 1108 (1103 – 2012)

Wait List

Resident 26 (2012 – 35)

Non-Resident 12 (2012 – 8)

Dinghy Permits

Resident 58 (2012 – 47)

Non-Resident 25 (2012 – 23)

Floats

The dinghy and end floats are scheduled to be removed on October 31st and the commercial floats will stay in for the commercial fishermen until weather doesn't permit it.

One dinghy will be left at the landing for commercial fishermen and the PD.

Richard Craven asked if some of the dinghies had already been removed. Yes, they have. One of the rangers has been performing maintenance on them and putting them away as he finishes each one.

It was also noted that the orange stripe and the oar locks have been good ideas and worked well in keeping the dinghies and the oars where they belong. No dinghies were lost this season. Thanks were given to Jay Hallett for the oarlocks.

Brief discussion on the benefits of the town dinghy program.

V AGENDA ITEM

Update from the sub-committee on bungee moorings

Jay Hallett reports that there is no new development in this project. At this time, there is no requirement to change the mooring lines and they will be keeping an ear to it and will address it when it becomes necessary.

VI NEW BUSINESS

Discuss concerns about swimming in the anchorage

Richard Garrett encourages continuing to allow swimming at the anchorage. There are several groups that swim there regularly. His concern is that recently there are more and more people swimming around the boats and he has concerns over their safety. He recommends educating people on safety of swimming around the anchorage. There are some places that have a swimming only area but that would not work in the anchorage.

Jay Hallett agrees there is concern because it happens in other areas as well, and recommends also educating the mooring holders as well as the swimmers. He suggested sending a reminder out with the permits. The harbormaster said that he would send out a general reminder to mooring holders about the rules, including swimming and to be careful of the swimmers, at the beginning of the summer so that it will be fresh in their memories.

Richard Craven feels that swimming in the anchorage is not a good idea, but it is not the committee's place to attempt to legislate common sense. He asked if a sign would work.

Harbormaster Twombly said that a sign could be put up, but that will only address the people entering from the town landing, not those that are swimming to the landing from other places. He suggested advertising, adding the sign, use the Forecaster, identify the groups and advise against swimming in the anchorage or suggesting the groups have a safety boat when they are swimming in the anchorage. They might even think about an ordinance change addressing swimming.

Emmanuel Kourinos agrees that you can't legislate common sense and suggested a "swim at your own risk" sign. Harbormaster Twombly told him that there are already so many signs now that people don't even see them anymore. A sign could possibly absolve the town from some liability, even if people don't read the signs.

Richard Garrett added that the problem may resolve itself as people realize it's not safe to swim in the anchorage.

Jay Hallett inquired as to whether there was any more talk about raising the mooring fees. Richard Garrett noted that it was a town council idea but that the council liaison didn't come to the last meeting to discuss it. At the time the committee was not in favor of raising the rates.

Jay Hallett made the harbormaster aware that some of the channel marker lights are becoming pretty dim and need to be looked at and possibly replaced. He said that some of them are getting pretty old and will need to be updated. Jay also asked about some buoys with amber lights that used to be at the edge of the mooring field but they are gone now. The harbormaster told the committee that those buoys were put up when the anchorage was expanded to make boaters aware of the new lines. The new anchorage is delineated on chart plotters. The chief recommended not replacing them.

Jay Hallett mentioned that the fire/EMS department has been working very successfully with Long Island fire/EMS and hopes that the relationship continues. Richard Garrett has spoken with the Long Island harbormaster and they are very happy with the new arrangement.

VII ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Richard Craven made a motion to elect Richard Garrett as chairperson, Emmanuel Kourinos seconded the motion. Richard Garrett was unanimously re-elected as chairperson of the harbor/waterfront committee.

Richard Garrett made a motion to elect Richard Craven as vice-chairperson, Emmanuel Kourinos seconded the motion. Richard Craven was unanimously re-elected as vice-chairperson of the harbor/waterfront committee.

VIII SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Richard Garrett made a motion that the next meeting of the Harbor / Waterfront Committee be scheduled for May 15, 2014 at 8:05 AM. Emmanuel Kourinos seconded it. It was unanimously voted that the next meeting of the Falmouth Harbor/Waterfront Committee be scheduled for May 15, 2014 at 8:05 AM at Falmouth Town Hall.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Kimmerly Maxfield-Fearon on November 1, 2013.