

Town of Wareham

Marine Resources Commission

Meeting Date September 10, 2014

Attendees: Don Jepson, Warren Hall, Trenton Blanchard, Jim Smith, LarryBearse, Dick Wheeler, Garry Buckminster

The Meeting opened at 7:00 PM.

The meeting notes from the previous meeting were read and accepted by the members.

The first item on the agenda was a discussion about a Cape Cod Times article on mooring waiting lists. Garry Buckminster briefed those present on the procedures and policies he has in place. He described the process he utilizes when a mooring has been identified as not being used. The mooring owner is then notified and told his/her mooring has been identified as not being in use, and if they do not reply to the notification, or do not utilize their mooring within a specified period of time, their mooring will be considered abandoned and removed. Garry also mentioned that a State grant was received to do a pilot study to utilize more eco-friendly moorings near Tempest Knob to promote eel grass growth in the area. Garry volunteered that he plans to purchase mooring planning software in order to gain maximum utilization of the Town's mooring fields. He explained that it is significantly less expensive to buy the software than to subscribe to an outside firm do layouts. The software will take into account when laying out a mooring field that boats have different draft requirements. The software will allow for inclusion of pictures of each boat attached to its mooring. This feature will be a great assist to law enforcement should a boat be stolen.

Trent Blanchard reported that the he is making progress in reviewing the proposed Waterways Bylaws.

Garry indicated that he has a 5 year plan in place for the Onset launch service. He indicated that while it will take some time for it to become fully utilized, he was able to keep the launch operators busy doing other tasks during down time. He said that getting the launch operators licenses was delayed significantly by the decision to have the licensing process transferred from Boston and consolidated in Maryland.

Regarding the updating of the Harbor management Plan, Larry Bearse, who reviewed the existing plan, suggested that the process could be streamlined. He said after reviewing the plan he determined that a lot of information in the existing plan is compilations that the authors took from areas that other departments and sources currently keep up to date. The membership agreed that what Larry was suggesting had a lot of merit and that referencing where certain information could be found, rather than restating it, would make the updating process easier. We could then focus on specific areas to produce a document that is more readable and easier to update. Larry will be looking at producing a suggested outline. Garry Buckminster indicated he would contact the individual he approached to update the Harbor Management Plan when the outline is available.

Don Jepson reported that he spoke with Sal Pina and the Merchant Ways redesign plans to include a kayak and small boat launch have been put on indefinite hold.

Garry Buckminster provided additional info on the Town's aquaculture program saying that the oysters will be distributed in Onset's outer harbor beyond Onset Island in the direction of the Maritime Academy

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

I attest these are the true MRC minutes of meeting held September 10, 2014.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald H. Jepson", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Donald H Jepson, Chairman

Please cc: Board of Selectmen, Harbormaster Office