

Meeting Minutes
Harbor & Waterfront Committee, Harpswell, Maine
April 7, 2015

Attending:

Members: Present: Burr Taylor – Chair, Bill Saxton, Jon Rogers, Jack Dostie
Absent: Richard Moseley
Guest: Kevin Johnson, Selectman of Harpswell
Lincoln Smith, Aquaculture Applicant
Harbormaster: Jim Hays

Activities:

- o Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm
- o The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed

Harbormaster Report:

- o Jim Hays reported that he will be reviewing the mooring list for Mackerel Cove in an effort to determine the number of registered moorings that are not in the water. These “unused” moorings are counted as “used” in the overall inventory of moorings for Mackerel Cove. This incorrectly increases the inventory and ultimately increases the wait time for an open mooring location. Jim will be posting the mooring list at Mackerel Cove and requesting verification from mooring holders. There are 136 registered moorings in the cove and only 101 are in the water. The Committee felt the 25 unused moorings could be used to by some the boaters on the two-page waiting list.
- o There have been a few issues with float moorings. Harpswell has about 65 float moorings and all must be registered with the Army Corps of Engineers – most are not. Some have become recreational island for multiple yachts. The general concern is that they may be a hazard to navigation. Currently there are no size restrictions for floats and there is a great uncertainty about their anchoring systems. Floats are uninsured and should they break free, who would be responsible for the damage?
- o Jim Hayes reported that there was a complaint about a commercial fisherman “leaving a mess” at the Town dock at Pott’s Point. After investigating, Jim was unable to substantiate the complaint. Jim also reported that there is no waiting list for dingy tie-ups and that overcrowding at the Town dock should not be an issue.
- o There was a brief discussion about applying for a planning grant from the State. It was decided that more discussion and investigation would be needed to move forward with a grant application.
- o Jim Hays reported that the Town will be sending out a questionnaire to current mooring holders asking for updated mooring information.
- o Jim Hays reported that the preferred means of mooring identification is to have the registration clearly marked in large numbers on the mooring float and to have the annual mooring tag issued by the Town displayed on the boat.

Other Committees:

Conservation Commission

- o Burr Taylor reported that the Casco Bay Plan is available for review. Part of the plan address the issue of excessive nutrient run-off into Casco Bay and the adverse effects of too much nitrogen

Old Business:

Aquaculture:

- o Lincoln Smith reported to the Committee that he is applying for an aquaculture permit to raise oysters in Long Reach. His application is for two Limited Purpose Aquaculture (LPA) licenses each comprised of 400 sq.ft. There was a brief discussion and no objections from the Committee. The Committee welcomed Lincoln’s efforts and wished him luck in his future endeavor.

Committee Size:

- o Jon Rogers was welcomed as a new member to the H&W Committee. Jim Hayes will see to it that Jon receives a copy of the H&W Ordinance as well as the Harbor Management Plan.
- o Bill Saxton inquired as to the current size of the H&W Committee. It was felt that the appropriate membership should be five (5). This would most likely guaranty a quorum at meetings – something that has been missing for some time.

Next Meeting:

May 5, 2015 Tuesday @ 5:30 pm – Harpswell Town Office

Adjourned – 7:15 pm
Respectfully submitted,
Jack Dostie