

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Harbor & Waterfront Committee, Harpswell, Maine**  
**October 6, 2015**

**Attending:**

Members: Present: Burr Taylor – Chair, Bill Saxton and Jack Dostie  
Absent: Jon Rogers and Jane Jukes  
Harbormaster: Jim Hays  
Visitor: Kevin Johnson, Selectman

**Activities:**

- Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm
- The minutes of the two previous meetings (7/14 & 9/15) were reviewed and approved

**Harbormaster Report:**

- Jim Hays reported that there is a 33' sailboat that has been abandoned in Mackerel Cove. It was placed on an unoccupied mooring without permission and needs to be removed.
- Jim requested that the Committee review the Dinghy Policy for the Town dock in Potts Harbor. Apparently there are numerous unattended dinghies that are allowed to fill with rainwater. These overloaded dinghies add excessive weight to the float system and stress the dock anchors during rough weather. This action has necessitated some recent repair work. If left unaddressed, the unattended dinghies may render the dock unstable and create an increasing financial burden on the Town. The Committee briefly discussed possible remedies such as;
  - An outreach letter to the dinghy owners asking for greater vigilance in their dinghy maintenance
  - A reduction in the number of permitted dinghies using the dock
  - A limit set on how long a dinghy may be tied to the dock (a week, a month, a season)
  - The introduction of one or more communal skiffs to be shared by all.

It was determined that more discussion was needed to find a suitable solution.

- Jim reported that the registration percentage of float moorings has increased. It was surmised that a heightened public awareness has led to greater compliance with registrations and that continuing outreach to float owners should be pursued. It was felt that language could be added to the current ordinance specifying that floats should not be used as substitute mooring locations for one or more boats unless that is the specific permitted purpose of the float.

**Other Committees:**

**Marine Resources**

- There was a brief discussion about the recent controversy between clam and worm harvesters over mudflats closures. It was generally felt that closing an area was a significant step – one not lightly undertaken – to manage a resource and that any actions that would have a negative impact on that resource were not warranted.

**Conservation Commission**

- There was no report

**Mitchell Field**

- There was no report

**Old Business:**

**Point of Access (POA)**

- There was a brief discussion about the current definition of a POA. The Committee felt that to meet the definition, a POA needs to be one that is used regularly and that is practical for the intended use.

**Next Meeting:**

November 3, 2015 Tuesday @ 5:30 pm – Harpswell Town Office

Adjourned – 6:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Dostie