

Meeting Minutes
Harbor & Waterfront Committee, Harpswell, Maine
December 9, 2014

Attending:

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

Activities:

- Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm
- The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed

Harbormaster Report:

- Jim Hays reported that the University of Maine in Orono has recently received a 20 million dollar grant for the study of aquaculture and that he is currently reviewing a local aquaculture lease renewal.
- There was an extended discussion regarding the increase in the number of unauthorized and non-compliant floats in Harpswell waters. The general public seems completely unaware of the special requirements associated with float moorings. The discussion centered on what might be the most effective way to inform the public.
- Bill Saxton requested a list of specific challenges that the Harbormaster is currently faced with. It was felt that this might be helpful to maintain focus and eventual resolutions of the key issues.
- There was a good deal of discussion on ordinance language changes that were deemed necessary to clarify and strengthen the current ordinance. After an extensive review of the draft language, modifications were made and the final draft was completed. Burr Taylor will present the final draft to the Town for Selectmen's' review.
- There was a brief review of the Harbor Management Plan and the growing congestion in the major harbors and anchorages. An earlier plan to hold Town forums to discuss mooring placement and relocation for specific harbors was evaluated. It was determined that there may be a timing conflict with the proposed Mitchell Field forums and that the Committee was not fully prepared to present a forum at the present time. A decision was made to postpone the forum plans and gather more information to be in a better position for presentation in the future.
- There was a brief discussion on the misuse of rental moorings and the difficulties associated with correcting some of the issues.

Other Committees:

Marine Resources

- It was reported that that the MR Committee is working with the Town to lease 800 acres of tidal areas from the State to then sub-lease to shellfish harvesters for clam production. They will be researching the possibility of creating a co-op to help with the conservation efforts currently underway.

Conservation Commission

- There was no report

Mitchell Field

- The Mitchell Field Committee is proposing a series of public forums to be held around Town at the end of January. The focus is to gauge the interest in constructing a boat launch at Mitchell Field and to determine the future disposition of the pier.

Old Business:

Aquaculture:

- There was no report

New Business:

- There was no report

Next Meeting:

January 6, 2015 Tuesday @ 5:30 pm – Harpswell Town Office

Adjourned – 7:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Dostie