

Meeting Minutes
Harbor & Waterfront Committee, Harpswell, Maine
April 11, 2018

Members: *Present:* Burr Taylor – Chair, Mose Price, Philip Conner, Bill Saxton, Jack Perry and Jack Dostie
Harbormaster: Paul Plummer
Selectman: Kevin Johnson

Activities:

- Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm
- The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted
- Burr Taylor welcomed Jack Perry to the Committee

Harbormaster Report:

- Paul Plummer reported that a 28' fishing vessel has sunk at its mooring off Oakhurst Island. He has contacted the owner to get it removed, but the owner does not have the finances to do so. A second party has expressed interest in recovering the vessel but there is a question of ownership. The second party won't move forward without title to the vessel. Meanwhile, it remains a navigational hazard particularly at low tide.
- There was another sunken vessel off Pole Island, but that one was quickly recovered.
- Scott Moody has submitted an aquaculture proposal for the Long Island area. It was reviewed during a scoping session and there were no major issues.
- Paul asked the Committee for guidance on the matter of "one mooring for one boat". There seems to be a conflict where a resident feels that the H&W Ordinance and the State laws are vague, and therefore allow him to have more than one mooring for his only boat. After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that a more precise legal opinion would be welcomed.

Other Committees:

Marine Resources

- Kevin Johnson reported that the Town has purchased an air boat for marine resource patrols. The Marine Resource Officers and the Harbormaster are scheduled to travel to Florida for factory training on the boat and to return the boat to Harpswell.
- There was 840 pounds of garbage collected by the MR Committee during the Pollution Mitigation event.

Old Business:

Town Dock

- The Committee discussed the possibility of adding a surcharge for usage of the town dock. Mooring holders using the dock reap the benefits of having a well-maintained and seaworthy dock at their disposal at no extra charge. The current mooring fee is \$25 and the dinghy fee is \$25. There are 28 available dinghy spaces (25 resident, 3 non-resident). It was reported that the new floats cost the Town approximately \$40,000 and that the annual mobilization cost is \$4,800 (\$2,400 install, \$2,400 haul out). The existing contractor has indicated that the cost for placement and retrieval will climb to \$6,400 next year. The Committee agrees that the current system is a much greater value to the Potts Harbor mooring holders than the fees represent and will investigate the possibility of raising the dinghy fee. Paul Plummer will research the cost of dinghy tie-up and storage at other municipalities and will also investigate procuring competitive quotes for the annual mobilization of the dock.

Mooring Application

- The Committee reviewed information from On Line Moorings presented by the Harbormaster. Currently, Portland, Falmouth and Yarmouth are using the system. Brunswick and Freeport are considering it. The system has no up-front cost to the Town. The costs are borne by a \$6 fee attached to each mooring renewal or application. Because the system is credit card based, there is also a small card service fee to consider. Overall, the Committee was favorably impressed with the proposal and encourage the Harbormaster to seek more information. Paul will contact On Line Moorings and have a representative meet with the Committee at the May 9th meeting.

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- The Committee discussed the possibility of raising the mooring fees. Presently, the fees are based on the cost of managing the moorings. It was suggested that the cost should not be based on a “break-even” basis, but rather as income producing. Surplus funds could then be used for shoreline and harbor improvements.

Waiting Lists

- The Committee feels that anyone interested in being on the waiting list should renew their information annually and pay a nominal fee.
- Paul Plummer presented an updated schedule of the Waiting List for each harbor.
 - Bethel Point 1 Res. 2 Non. Card Cove 2 Res.
 - Cundy’s Harbor 5 Res. Garrison Cove 2 Res. 1 Res. Com
 - Lumbo’s Hole 2 Res. Mackerel Cove 24 Res.
 - Potts Harbor 18 Res. Lookout Point 1 Non.

New Business:

Mooring Software

- On Line Mooring system presentation to the Committee

Adjourned – 6:42 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Dostie

Next Meeting:

May 9, 2018 - Wednesday @ 5:00 pm – Harpswell Town Office