

Meeting Minutes
Harbor & Waterfront Committee, Harpswell, Maine
April 12, 2017

Attending:

Members: *Present:* Burr Taylor – Chair, Bill Saxton, Peter Darling, Philip Conner, Mose Price and Jack Dostie
 Absent: Alison Hawkes
Harbormaster: Jim Hays
Guest: Kevin Johnson, Selectman

Activities:

- Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm
- The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted
- Mose Price was welcomed (belatedly) to the Committee

Harbormaster Report:

- Jim Hays reported that he was preparing documents and programs for the transition to a new Harbormaster and that he and others are in the process of interviewing prospective candidates for the position.

Other Committees:

Marine Resources

- Kevin Johnson reported that the MR Committee has expanded the species list to include razor clams and oysters to be covered by the shellfish ordinance. Many species share similar ecosystems and a comprehensive ordinance may be beneficial to all.

Old Business:

Public Awareness

- Billy Saxton informed the Committee that the mooring “Reminder” cards were mailed out and included the language the Committee had requested.

Mooring Issues

- There was an extensive discussion on mooring classifications and priorities. Many of the Town’s moorings are categorized incorrectly. It is the hope of the Committee to clarify the categories and revise the mooring application to correctly reflect the changes.
- The Committee concluded that there are no “guest” moorings. Moorings are only for personal use. Personal use includes Residential and Commercial purposes. Anyone wanting more than one mooring for an unspecified boat or boats must apply for a Rental Mooring. Rental Mooring applications are reviewed by the ACOE (Army Corps of Engineers) as well as the Harbormaster.
- The discussion continued with the clarification of “service” moorings as those owned by a person or business and used for the purpose of supporting that entity. The proposed definition of service mooring; *Any mooring owned by a Marine Related Business used in the daily operation of that business that is not intended for rental purposes.* Service mooring applications are not reviewed by the ACOE. The Service Mooring category is not currently included in the Harbor and Waterfront Ordinance. The Committee felt that it should be part of the Ordinance and have a fee that is somewhere between the Personal and Rental rates.
- Rental moorings were defined as; *Moorings that are rented either nightly or seasonally.* The Committee is still trying to determine if moorings owner by a Marine Related Business such as a co-op or fish dealer should be considered “service” or “rental”. There will be more discussions in order to clarify and assign a category to this type of business.
- Billy Saxton proposed that there be four categories of moorings: *Personal, Rental, Float & Service.* Mose Price presented a motion that the Ordinance be amended to include the four categories. The motion was seconded and approved after discussion.

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Marine Related Business

- The Committee determined that the definition of Marine Related Business is somewhat vague and open to misinterpretation. The Committee will discuss the proposed definition modification; *A business establishment that must have direct access to navigable water in order to function, such as marinas, water-borne transportation facilities, and finfish and shellfish processing facilities, but excluding use by commercial fishing vessel owners for their personal use.*

New Business:

- Fees
- Revise mooring application
- How to handle the waiting lists.
- Parking requirements
- Moorings and permits outside of special anchorages

Adjourned – 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Dostie

Next Meeting:

May 10, 2017 - Wednesday @ 5:00 pm – Harpswell Town Office