

Town of Harpswell  
Mitchell Field Committee Meeting  
October 4, 2021

**Attendees:** Spike Haible, Don Miskill, Lee Cheever, Bob Yanders, Mose Price, Sharon Oehmig, Katherine Goodrich, and Philip Conner.

Also present: Mark Eyerman and David Chipman.

**A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.**

**Meeting Minutes:** The September 13, 2021 minutes were approved as written [7-0-0].

**New Business:**

• **Running Tide Lease:**

- Lease amendment was approved by the BoS on Sep 30. 10 year lease.
- Annual rent will be \$58,960 with a 3% annual increase. Rent goes to the general fund.
- Lease expands use to include macroalgae (kelp), and clarified subletting or transfer of the lease.
- Question about wetlands area in the lower meadow impacting the service road if it is moved. Don't think so but Don will forward wetlands diagram from pier demo.
- Question about vegetation replacement with construction. Planning Board will have that as part of their review of any development plans presented for approval.
- All future discussions of RT lease areas will use the recorded plat diagram.
- RT unsure of plans or timeline so no immediate development on Lot B.

• **Integrated Town Landing:**

- Town received drafts of the revised grant agreements yesterday from MaineDOT. We will review them and then finalize them with MaineDOT. The final agreements have to be approved by the Select Board then, there is a process we will go through with MaineDOT to assure that the Town understands what is required of it. After that, we get the green light to move ahead.
- Hope to do our final planning and design work over this winter. Town will decide when to release an RFP based on construction cost climate. New project completion date is Sept. 2024.

• **Blue Sky Tower:**

- The tower is up and they are finishing the site work, including landscaping.
- Several questions about emergency communications on the tower.
- No word on AT&T's timeline to be operational.

• **Proposed MF Operating Budget for 2022:**

- Distributed revised 2022 budget at \$29,500. Includes the \$15,000 for Contracted Planning.
- After discussion about town steward/monitor proposal under the Recreation Director. The committee elected to keep the monitor line at \$500. Boat launch may generate a need.
- Nothing from Community Garden or Bandstand. Don will let committee know if that changes as they go through the 2022 budget review process.
- Winter storage for the picnic tables has raised the issue about storage facilities at MF. The town doesn't have any other than the Generator Building and the Admin Building garages. Will have a meeting to see what the long term plan is for the Harbormaster and the use of the Generator Building by the town and HCA.
- Question – Are the items in the Generator Building dead storage. No, there is active use of the things in building. There is a ramp and boat. Could be better organized.

- There was a fishermen's survey that highlighted the need for indoor winter work space. There would be a cost to make the Generator Building more usable. Swimming area buoys will be stored in the Admin Building garage along with other buoys removed for the winter.
- If the Harbormaster is going to be a long term user of the Admin Garage then we need to repair the roof. This should be done as a Special Project. Don will let everyone know what the meeting results are, and draft a funding request memo if required.
- **Upper Meadow Nature Trail** – Working on the next steps. Will meet again then present to MFC.
- **MF Survey Sub-Committee:** We met prior to the MFC meeting. We are asking everyone in town, not just the users. The Admin Building is part of the survey. Length of survey and categories of questions. Need more info on how to do it. Talk with Friends of Fort Williams to see what they did.
- **Admin Building** – Question about Hazardous Material presence. Navy removed some but still lead paint possibility. Will need to address this.
- **Natural Resources Management Plan** – Mark asked if we had worked on this. As we think about forest management then we need a plan. We need to resolve some current issues before we add more.
- **MF Marine Business District Redraw** – RT lease is approved. They also has option on remainder of the MFMBD so they will be involved but we can proceed with the redraw.
- **Swimmers' Area floating line and buoys** – Out on Wednesday.
- **Harriers Race** – Very successful. Well attended and we needed the field parking.
- **South Perimeter Road Closure** – Not much longer.
- **Field Mowing** – Complete.
- **Dinghy Rack** – Next project we will work on.
- **Work Plan** – Will send out emails.
- **Goals and Action Items Update** – See changes.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.**

**Handouts: (All handouts are available electronically)**

- MFC Chair memo, *Chairperson Update*, September 30, 2021
- M. Eyerman memo, *Planner's Update*, October 1, 2021
- MF Steward memo, *Steward's Update*, October 1, 2021
- *Mitchell Field Goals and Action Items List*, September 30, 2021
- Revised Proposed 2022 Mitchell Field Operating Budget, September 13, 2021
- D. Miskill memo, *Changes to the Proposed 2022 Mitchell Field Operating Budget*, September 30, 2021

**Next MF Committee Meeting:**

- MFC meeting on Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 5:00 PM
- MFC meeting on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:00 PM
- MFC meeting on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Miskill, Secretary