



Fairhaven Marine Resources Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2023

Present: Chair Michael McNamara, Vice-Chair Andrew Jones, Select Board member Keith Silvia, Ms. Michelle Potter, Mr. Robert Hobson, Mr. Robert Pink and Harbormaster Timothy Cox.

Absent: David Hebert

The meeting was videotaped by Cable Access and Zoom meeting application.

Mr. McNamara opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Minutes:

Motion: Mr. Hobson motioned to approve minutes. Mr. Pink seconded. Vote (5-1-1)

Receive information neighboring community ramp parking:

Mr. McNamara reviewed information received and advised that once all data from 2023 is available, the board will access fees in January and recommend if increases are needed. Discussion ensued regarding revenue of the department and expenses of the Boat Ramps and Union Wharf. The revenue at Hoppy's Landing has increased by twenty percent due to the implementation of an all paid parking lot. Mr. McNamara would like to explore a hybrid program charging during peak season only.

Discussion – Shellfish permit fees:

The cost of the Quahog Relay has increased substantially over the last few years. Mr. McNamara feels we excel over surrounding towns in seeding every year and could increase the permit fee by around ten percent. Discussion ensued regarding the expense of the seeding and how much the fees should be increased and also the free senior/veteran permits and whether they should be lifetime or the age be increased. This will be revisited at a future meeting.

Union Wharf update:

Fencing has been installed and equipment is being dropped off for work to be started. The South side is open for transient boats during this construction, with the first hour at no charge. The steel barge that was on the North side is waiting for relocation and will be delivered to the city once they decide on a spot. All of the vessels that were instructed to leave have done so. Mr. Hobson brought up the issue of the Shipyard trying to take ownership of one of the lobster boat slips. This issue is under litigation so an update was not available.

Dredging update:

The Harbor dredging is still waiting for the RFP to be awarded. The schedule will be available soon and the dredging will be started in January. The West Island dredging update provided by FOTH engineering was read by Mr. McNamara. Samples are still being analyzed and locations explored for

material to be relocated. They will be drafting SAP and expect dredging to be done in 2025. Discussion ensued regarding the sand on the beaches and recent erosion. The process to dredge is very long and expensive.

Harbormaster updates:

The building at Hoppy's Landing is being vinyl sided. Some major rot was discovered so additional repairs are being done. A fence has been installed for storage and additional lighting and cameras for security is in the works. The committee agreed that this would be a good use of money and supported the upgrades. The docks at Seaview will be coming out in November with the help on the BPW. A memorial bench has been installed at Seaview Parking lot that was donated.

Shellfish updates:

Blue Stream had a successful year with the upweller at Hoppy's Landing. They are currently looking for locations for the 2024 season and are considering Jack's Cove and also places in Mattapoisett. The float will be coming out in the next week. The outer harbor is currently closed due to an outfall pipe at Fort Rodman and is not expected to reopen. It is possible that Shellfish could be affected all the way to Marion which is the worst-case scenario. Bay scallops are not open but not plentiful.

Any Other Business:

none

Next meeting will be January 4, 2023 at 6:30 pm. If any unforeseen circumstance comes up prior, an earlier meeting will be scheduled.

Motion: Mr. Jones motioned to adjourn. Mr. Pink seconded. Vote (5-1-1)

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Sharon Mills
Recording Secretary