



**Fairhaven Marine Resources Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2023**

**FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCUD 2023 SEP 29 AM 9:57**

Present: Chair Michael McNamara, Select Board member Keith Silvia, Mr. Robert Hobson, Mr. Dave Hebert, Ms. Michelle Potter, Mr. Robert Pink and Harbormaster Timothy Cox.

Absent: Vice-Chair Andrew Jones

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

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

Mr. McNamara welcomed the newest board member, Mr. Robert Pink. Mr. Pink introduced himself and gave a brief summary of his past and his interest in contributing to the Town.

Minutes:

Motion: Mr. Hobson motioned to approve minutes. Mr. Hebert seconded. Vote (4-0-2) Mr. Pink abstained as a new member. Mr. Silvia abstained

Receive information regarding parking fees:

Mr. McNamara reviewed revenue from Hoppy's Landing. Over the next several months data will be collected from surrounding towns and the board will revisit to decide if the fee's should be increased. Mr. Hobson expressed his appreciation for the change in our parking policy and hopes it will be utilized in the future for new events. Discussion ensued regarding the patrolling of the parking lot and the financial sustainability of the Hoppy's Landing.

Union Wharf Updates:

Harbormaster Cox reviewed the schedule for construction at Union Wharf. He advised which boats will be relocating, how the remaining boats will be affected and where the fence will be put up to block off traffic to the wharf. Construction is scheduled to be complete by the first of April 2024. Discussion ensued regarding the requirements and rules and regulations to lease dock space at Union Wharf. Mr. McNamara discussed revenue and would like a more in-depth review of funds being generated.

Dredging Updates:

Dredging has been contracted and is scheduled to start this Fall but Mr. Cox thinks it will be closer to Winter time. We have not received clarification as to what order areas will be dredged but marinas should be first. He advised the committee on the options and the areas that are being considered to relocate the dredged sand/soil. He will update the committee when more information is received.

Harbormaster updates:

All fee's related to Marine Resources are being researched and any increases of fees will be discussed at a future meeting. Winter storage at Hoppy's Landing will be considered and discussed at a future meeting. Mr Cox informed the committee Hurricane Lee will hit us either as a Hurricane or Tropical storm

depending on the path it takes and he is working on securing town property. The building at Hoppy's Landing will be vinyl sided and also possibly get new windows with APRPA funds. Additional lighting was donated by James Moroux and Amp'd Up Electric donated their time to install. Mr. Cox described the new boat purchased with ARPA funds that will be shared between the Fire Department and Marine Resource Department. The boat has the capability to fight fires, pump boats if needed and will act as an ambulance on the water. It will be stored at Union Wharf and will be a great addition to our resources.

Shellfish updates:

It's been a busy season for the department. North Cove has been replanted with 800 bushels of quahogs at \$27.00 per bushel. The cost of Fairhaven's Shellfish permits have not increased in many years and will be reviewed at a future meeting. Discussion ensued regarding quahog population and availability to both recreational and commercial fishing. Oysters will be planted on the reef at Little Bay through a Nature Conservatory grant.

Next meeting will be September 28, 2023 at 6:30 pm. If any unforeseen circumstance comes up prior, an earlier meeting will be scheduled.

Any Other Business:

Ms. Potter brought up the beach on Goulart Memorial Blvd. and a possible pipeline that was in use many years ago. Discussion ensued regarding the history of the area and the erosion of the shores over past years. Buzzards Bay Coalition is rebuilding Marsh Island. It will have an extensive walking path and a bridge going over a creek. Access will be a new parking lot at the end of Tabor Street and also River Ave.

Motion: Mr. Pink motioned to adjourn. Mr. Hebert seconded. Vote (5-0-1)

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

**Respectively submitted,
Sharon Mills
Recording Secretary**