

**Fairhaven Marine Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes: July 2, 2020**

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Present: Harbormaster Tim Cox, Chairman Frank Coelho, Michelle Potter, Andrew Jones, Eric Dawicki, Selectman Robert Espindola, Dave Hebert, Mike McNamara

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FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Harbormaster Cox called the meeting order at 6:33 pm.

Harbormaster Cox started the meeting off with the election of officers asking for any nominations for Chair. Selectman Espindola then informed the group that not all members have been sworn in since the town election, so they cannot do a formal vote. It was then decided that they will do an informal vote to establish the new chair and at the next meeting do the actual formal vote. Mr. Coelho then advised the group that he would not be running for Chairperson at this time. Mr. Coelho nominated Mr. McNamara as Chair, Ms. Potter then seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor. Mr. Coelho motioned that Mr. Jones be Vice Chair, Selectman Espindola seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously in favor. The decision was made that a Secretary would not be needed.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. McNamara made motion to approve the June 4, 2020 minutes. Harbormaster Cox seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Potter noted the date on the minutes incorrectly stated March, this will be corrected before posting the approved version.

Mr. McNamara asked for a motion to move the review of the new Waterway Rules & Regulation at the end of the agenda. Harbormaster Cox made that motion adding a time limit to end the meeting at 8:30 pm. Mr. Coelho seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Phase V Dredging:

Harbormaster update the group stating the dredging is a bit ahead of schedule. Noted he now attends a meeting every other week for updates / issues. They digging the middle of CAD and dumping in New Jersey. There were some afterhours noise complaints that have been addressed.

Union Wharf:

Harbormaster Cox noted not much has changed as of yet. Foth is working on finalizing the plans. Talking about putting a davit on the south side in the east corner. Working on figuring out how far they want it to reach and how to secure it. We had the kick off meeting and there will be another meeting before it goes out to bid. Once it goes out to bid he will advise the committee when and who will get the bid.

Mr. McNamara asked how the parking is working out this year since the new signs are up. Harbormaster Cox said the signs are working and that we are still working on some regulations for Union Wharf parking that he hopes to address within the new Waterway Rules and Regulations.

Boat Ramps:

Harbormaster Cox advised all is the same at the boat ramps. He has spoken to Deputy Chief Todd Correia about doing some washing down at the boat ramps. There are some sand humps that need to be addressed. Also, the signs at Hoppy's seem to be helping the parking. Mr. McNamara asked how the meter is working out. Harbormaster Cox stated its working good. We bought an extended warranty for the meter. The biggest issue was the bill acceptor not working when it was rainy or damp. We have purchased an additional acceptor so that it can be switched out when in need of service. He is still planning to build some sort of protection / housing around it to protect it from the salty air. Our IT department is now able to work on the meter and with ITS as well.

Aquaculture / Upwell Updates:

Harbormaster Cox stated the two upwellers are back up and running. The baby quahogs are back from their wintering. There was a little mortality that was unexpected but it would have been worse if we planted them in a different manor. Things are going very well. The will measure and separate them a couple more times before the end of the season. Round and Senior Cove are closed and North Cove is open and has very busy thus far. Starting transplant on Monday the 6th. Will be planting 500 bushel at Round Cove ad then 800 bushel at Senior Cove late July early August.

Mr. McNamara asked if there is any feedback from the Oyster Farmers. Harbormaster Cox replied that Matt Loo is doing very well. Both he and Taylor Cultured Seafood are just getting product back to market. John Mills has planted his product and now waits for growth. Mr. McNamara asked if anyone was growing scallops. Harbormaster Cox answered no. Mr. McNamara stated he saw an incredible number of oysters at the back of West Island. Harbormaster Cox agreed and noted that when they planted the oysters in Lil Bay and since Loo and Taylor seeded the population of oyster growth in incredible.

New Business:

Mr. McNamara asked if the Harbormaster is staffed appropriately for the upcoming seasonal traffic. Harbormaster Cox replied yes he is. Noted he hired the intern from last season and he is a great addition to the team. We are short one crew on the pump out boat, so the existing deputies will rotate in and out with him every weekend.

Waterways Rules & Regulations Review:

The board began a review of the Waterway Rules & Regulation suggestions submitted by the committee members. See attached: Waterway Rules Suggestions. Discussion ensued. Motions were made to table a few of the mooring topics until the next meeting. Motions were approved unanimously. The committee will continue the review at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting August 6, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sheri Souza
Recording Secretary

Approved August 6, 2020