

Fairhaven Marine Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes: October 14, 2021

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2021 NOV 18 AM 10:58

Present In Person & Via Zoom: Harbormaster Tim Cox, Chairman Mike McNamara, Robert Hobson, Andrew Jones, Selectman Keith Silvia, Eric Dawicki, Michelle Potter, & Dave Hebert

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Chairman McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from September 2, 2021 by Mr. Hobson. Seconded by Ms. Potter. Motion passed unanimously.

Blue Stream Electricity Proposal:

James from Blue Stream Shellfish came before the board to present the proposal of running electricity from Hoppy's to their site, (Attachment A). Timing of service from Eversource to Blue Stream to get electricity is indefinite, so they are seeking a temporary solution in tapping into the Hoppy's service. They will reimburse the town for the entire Hoppy's electric bill during this period. The discussion ensued. It was noted that this of approved by the Select Board this will need to go to Town Council and a few other Departments for permitting. A motion was made by Eric Dawicki to forward the proposal to the Select Board for approval based on lease agreement that has met Town Council approval for 6 months. Seconded by Ms. Potter. The motion passed unanimously.

NMI Community Center Proposal:

Dave Bill from NMI is came before the board to propose a Community Aquaculture Center at Hoppy's Landing, (Attachment B). Eric Dawicki excused himself from the room for this proposal. Harbormaster Cox noted that nothing has to be decided today. Mr. Bill read his proposal to the board. The board then asked questions of Mr. Bill regarding the electricity, capacity, time line, etc. Harbormaster Cox noted that he and Mr. Bill have been painting and improving the building by using the Community Service that the NMI students need submit. Mr. Bill noted that he is looking to start next season. He also noted this can be used for the entire community; school field trips, etc. Harbormaster Cox would still be responsible for securing the building. Discussion ensued. Mr. Bill reiterated that any request to use the building would have to go before the board for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Hobson to table the discussion until further information is gathered and getting feedback from the public. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Shellfish Updates:

Harbormaster Cox stated they planted 600 bushel in North Cove. They are a good size, cherry stone quahog. The cove will be open in the Spring. Water sampling was done today. The beach area next to the causeway will open on November 1st. This is normally open on October 1st, but due to the new DMF rule regarding mooring fields in shellfish areas, it has to

wait until November. Chairman McNamara asked about the baby quahogs that were winterized last year. Harbormaster Cox reiterated that they were planted in Senior Cove and are still too small to fish.

Harbormaster Updates:

Harbormaster Cox noted that Seaview Boat Ramp will be closed on Tuesday for repairs. The state is coming to assist the BPW with the maintenance. Pease Park was shutdown on October 3rd for the day. It was repaired from the boat fire. Union Wharf is complete. The Southside is done. It has been black topped. The price came in higher than quoted. The BPW is going to help pay the extra cost. He will be bringing lining the parking lot to the committee in the next couple of meetings. Will need an engineering company to submit a plan. Mr. Hobson asked for an update on the Casey Boat situation. Harbormaster Cox said he has no further information at this time. Select Board Member Silvia noted it is still in executive session. The board continued to discuss the issue. Chairman McNamara reiterated that they would like more information when it is available. A motion was made by Eric Dawicki to request from the Select Board an authorized statement regarding the state of the negotiation of the land swap so the public can understand what is going on and how it is a benefit to the town. Seconded by Mr. Hebert. Vote was unanimous, with Select Board Member Silvia recusing himself from this matter. Mr. Hobson then had a question regarding the electricity at Union Wharf. Harbormaster Cox will be meeting with the Electrical Inspector to discuss options available. Mr. Hobson asked about the Shipyard trying to steal the last Lobster boat spot. Harbormaster Cox reiterated that the issue is still out of his hands. Mr. Hobson also brought up that it has been brought to his attention the Lobster Boats have been leaving a mess at the Wharf. Harbormaster Cox will be having his office send out letters to the boat owners addressing the issue.

Hoppy's Parking Meter Seasonal Shutdown:

Harbormaster Cox is requesting that the parking meter at Hoppy's Landing be shut down for the season. He submitted the numbers from the credit card purchases versus the money paid out for the meter (Attachment C). The board was in awe of how little money the meter is making for the town. Mr. Dawicki suggested that the meter be shut down as soon as possible. Mr. Dawicki made a motion to shut down the meter for a seasonal shutdown. Ms. Potter seconded the motion. The board voted in favor of the seasonal shut down. They would like to see the total amount of revenue from Hoppy's parking at the next meeting. The meter revenue will be revisited at the next meeting because they believe the Town is losing money due to the meter at this point.

Business not anticipated Within 48 hours:

Harbormaster Cox let the committee know Foth Engineering will be at the next meeting to go over the West Island Dredging Feasibility Study.

The next meeting will be November 4, 2021.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Dawicki, Mr. Hebert seconded. Passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sheri Souza

Recording Secretary

Approved November 4, 2021