

**Fairhaven Marine Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes: August 4, 2022**

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

Absent: Eric Dawicki

Chairman McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from June 9, 2022 by Mr. Hobson. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Motion passed unanimously.

West Island Marina Boat Ramp:

Mr. Daniel J. Padien, the Waterways Program Chief for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection was supposed to attend the meeting virtually to discuss this ramp. Mr. Padien did not log on. Mr. Jones made a motion to table this topic until they can speak with or receive information from Mr. Padien regarding the ramp issue. Mr. Hobson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Dinghy Permit Regulation Change:

Harbormaster Cox explained to the committee what changes he would like to bring forward to the Select Board regarding the Dinghy Permit Rules & Regulations. The first change he would like made is to the dating. He would like the rule to read the permits are available April 1st and will expire October 31st. He would also like it state if the dinghy is left on the rack after October 31st there will be \$50.00 fine to the dinghy owner. He will hold the dinghy for one year and if it is not claimed it will go to the town auction. He would also like to have three separate stickers for all three racks. This will help with tracking how full each rack will be. Lastly he would like to remove the waiting list option off the rule.

Mr. Hobson asked if there is a room for another dinghy rack at the Seaview Boat Ramp. Harbormaster Cox is looking into that option as well. He is pricing out another rack.

Mr. Hobson also asked about the commercially used dinghies. Harbormaster Cox noted that he will allow dinghies there all year if they are stored for commercial use.

Mr. Hobson made the motion to change the rule for Seaview Avenue to read the permits will be available April 1st and will expire October 31st. If the dinghy is left on the rack after October 31st there will be \$50.00 fine to the dinghy owner. The dinghy will only be held for one year and if it is not claimed it will go to the town auction. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous and approved.

Mr. Jones than asked if this rule was just for Seaview Avenue. Harbormaster Cox clarified that he would like the rule to stand for all three ramps with a stipulation at Hoppy's Landing that if is stored for commercial use it can be there all year.

With that said, Chairman McNamara asked for a motion to retract the previous dinghy rack permit motion. Mr. Jones made the motion to retract. Ms. Potter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hobson asked if permit holders will be notified. Harbormaster Cox confirmed.

A new motion was made by Mr. Jones for new rule to read storage by permit only for all racks, from April 1st to October 31st, removal by the Town after that at a cost of \$50.00, to be stored up to a year then subject to auction after that. Mr. Hebert seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Sheri will submit to the Select Board for their approval at the next meeting.

The Committee asked to have a notice put on the racks stating changes.

Harbormaster Updates:

Harbormaster Cox noted we are working with the Engineer for the Union Wharf upgrades using the \$500,000.00 ARPA Grant money. Work will be going out to bid. He went over previously discussed upgrades.

We received two grants from the Seaport Economic Council. \$1,000,000.00 for the first 100 feet of Union Wharf's North Side and \$200,000.00 for West Island Dredging, in order to be shovel ready. The money will be released in October, then we can go out to bid. Discussion ensued regarding the sheet piling that is to be replaced on the Union Wharf North Side.

There will be another grant round coming in October with the Seaport Economic Council. We will apply for more funds for the North Side of Union Wharf.

The committee discussed some concern regarding the timeline of the West Island dredging along with the Causeway being fixed. Mr. Hobson voiced his concern about the possible changes to the Causeway. Chairman McNamara asked Mr. Hobson as the liaison to the BPW to let the committee know when the updates to the Causeway will next be discussed so he can attend.

Shellfish Updates:

The new flag has been installed at Seaview Boat Ramp. A thank you to Mr. Silvia for donating the pole in honor of his Father in Law. Mr. Silvia noted he will have a plaque made as well.

600 bushel of quahogs were planted between Blue Point and Bella Vista Island.

Harbormaster Cox is going to a New Bedford City Council meeting on Tuesday. The Outer Harbor issues will be discussed. The discharge issue of the Sewer Treatment plant is still going on. Harbormaster Cox is working with DMF to let Fairhaven stay open throughout this issue as long as the water sampling remains good. Maybe close at .2 inches of rain rather than .3 inches. He will let the committee know the outcome.

Dredging Updates:

The New Bedford Dredging in the North Terminal has begun. They are hoping to be driving the sheets at the end of this month / beginning of September. Once they do around 100 feet, they will finish the Cad Cell. Then our dredging can begin. Looking at possibly the beginning of next year. Nothing set in stone just yet.

Mr. Hobson asked about the moorings north of the bridge. Harbormaster Cox noted that when the cad cell was being built some of the people were displaced and applied to come to Fairhaven. The EPA will be doing some maintenance dredging and those mooring maybe moved again.

West Island Marina Boat Ramp:

Chairman McNamara asked for the Boards permission to reopen this agenda item. The board agreed unanimously. Chairman McNamara reiterated that the information regarding this ramp needs to come from either the Town or the State and at the present moment we do not have the information from either. The committee cannot make any further determination without said information. Mr. Jones presented a copy of the license and is questioning the committee's real authority on this issue. Discussion ensued summarizing the issue.

Marine Resources Department with follow up with the State again.

A motion was made by Mr. Hobson to stop debating the issue without the information. Motion seconded by Mr. Hebert. Passed unanimously.

Any Other Business:

Chairman McNamara addressed that he heard of a new policy that the Town Administrator has put out noting that Select Board members can no longer be voting members on committees unless there is a tie vote. He has not received such information from the TA's office so until he does he will consider Select Board Member Silvia a voting member until then. There is also a rumor the Mr. Dawicki will be resigning from the board. There may be new members needed if that is the case.

Mr. Hobson brought forth an issue at Hoppy's Landing with a boat owner docking the boat to go across the street to Off the Hook Bar & Grill. Harbormaster Cox noted that there is a sign

at the ramp stating they can dock for no longer than an hour. Harbormaster Cox noted it is not a frequent problem. Harbormaster Cox will change the sign to read Docking for Loading & Unloading Only.

The board had a moment of silence for Call Firefighter Kevin Poulson who passed that week.

Harbormaster Cox informed the committee about the new barge he uses for planting quahogs.

Mr. Eric Moniz addressed the board regarding issues he has with Union Wharf docking: water, electrical, and residency. The committee decided to put Mr. Moniz's concerns on the agenda for the September meeting so that all boat owners can attend and address the board as well.

Next meeting will be September 1, 2022.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Jones. Mr. Hobson seconded. Passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Sheri Souza
Recording Secretary

Approved November 3, 2022