



Fairhaven Marine Resources Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2023

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
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Present: Chair Michael McNamara, Vice-Chair Andrew Jones, Select Board member Keith Silvia, Mr. Robert Hobson, Mr. Dave Hebert, Ms. Michelle Potter, James Moroux and Harbormaster Timothy Cox.

Absent: N/A

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

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

Minutes

Motion: Mr. Jones motioned to approve the minutes of January 5, 2022. Mr. Hebert seconded. Vote. (6-0-1) Mr. Silvia, James Moroux abstained.

Motion: to move agenda item 6A forward for Matt Loo's License extension renewal. Mr. Jones motioned, Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote (6-0-1)

Shellfish updates:

Aquaculture License Renewal – M Loo

Harbormaster Tim Cox gave outstanding review of Mr. Loo's work ethic and recommends granting a ten-year license. Mr. Hobson also spoke in favor of Mr. Loo.

Motion: Mr. Jones motioned to recommend that the Select Board sign a ten-year renewable term. Ms. Potter seconded. Vote (6-0-1) Item will be scheduled for Select Board meeting.

Public Ramp at West Island Marina-information update:

Mr. Jones excused himself from discussion. Mr. McNamara received an update from Angie Lopes Ellison detailing communications with Town Council regarding the Deed and the Public's rights and access to ramp. The deed is actually a license and the DEP has the authority to take enforcement action with any interference with the public rights of passage set forth in the license. Council recommends contacting the DEP to alert them to the possible non-compliance of the public rights of passage if that is what's needed. The ramp is a public recreation access and requires signage. Angie will be addressing this at the next meeting.

Hoppy's Landing :

Harbormaster storage:

Harbormaster Cox presented detailed map of proposed storage location and described what would be stored there. He proposed completing this project this summer regardless of current locations timeframe. Lighting and security cameras will need to be installed. Mr. Cox will keep the board updated with information as it becomes available.

Parking fee review:

Mr. Hobson strongly believes that the parking should not be free at Hoppy's Landing and that it is not being utilized at it should. He suggests that the revenue could be used for the upkeep of the boat ramp, parking lot and benches. Mr. McNamara brought up the lack of enforcement to patrol the parking lot. Mr. Cox described the area and what is available for free parking and what spots require sticker/payment. Discussion ensued as to who is using the parking lot and for what reasons and the use of the parking lot by people walking across the street to the restaurant. Mr. McNamara stated that it was bought by the Town of Fairhaven for residents to utilize and as long as it's paying for itself, changes should not be made. Mr. Jones brought up the occupancy vs parking at the restaurant and wants to further investigate the lack of parking which overflows onto the town property. Mr. McNamara would like to gather more information about the expenses and revenue of Hoppy's Landing and pursue any recommendations that are actionable.

Harbormaster Cox advised that there are five benches that were donated to be installed at Hoppy's Landing. He will check with conservation on installation. Mr. Cox is working on new signage for rules and timeframe for dockage. The committee agreed on fifteen minutes for boats to be docked. Mr Cox is working towards filling in some pot holes and grading the parking lot.

Harbormaster Updates:

Mr. Cox advised that the seawall at Seaview needs attention. He will coordinate with BPW to fix the issues with the concrete and to clean up the parking lot before the season starts.

Mr McNamara brought up the erosion due to the last storm. Harbormaster Cox elaborated on the parts of town that were affected by the last storm.

Harbormater Cox updated committee on grant in process and dredging timeframe.

Shellfish Updates:

Harbormaster Cox advised his will be planting North Cove this year. He previously planted 600 bushels in this location is proposing to plant 700-800 bushels and will be dependent on funding.

Mr. Cox will be removing the dinghy's that were not removed by the owners. Mr. Cox advised he may be adding an additional rack at Seaview for residents.

Any Other Business: None

Next meeting will be March 2, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Motion: Mr. Jones motioned to adjourn. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote was unanimous. (6-0-1)

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sharon Mills

Recording Secretary