

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK

Fairhaven Marine Resources Committee

Meeting Minutes: December 3, 2020

Present Via Zoom: Harbormaster Tim Cox, Chairman Mike McNamara, Robert Hobson was in partial attendance, Andrew Jones, and Selectman Robert Espindola, Eric Dawicki.

FAIRHAVEN, MASS.
Dave Hebert and Michelle Potter were absent.

Chairman McNamara called the meeting order at 6:32 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Dawicki made a motion to approve the November 5, 2020 minutes. Ms. Jones seconded. Minutes passed unanimously.

License Agreement with Casey Boat Realty, LLC:

Attorney Tom Crotty joined the committee to review the License Agreement with Casey Boat Realty, LLC. Discussion ensued.

Union Wharf Ramp Update & Review of Fees:

Harbormaster Cox advised the new construction date for Union Wharf will be January 15th. It will be shut down on the 14th. On December 21st we will have to shut the north side. We received a grant along with the City of New Bedford to get the piers surveyed. A letter will be drafted and sent to all boats affected.

The fee for the south side small boat basin at Union Wharf has been \$1905.00 for the last three years. Harbormaster Cox would like to raise the fee 10% to total \$2095.50. He will be trying to get water to that side this summer. Discussion ensued with the committee on the increase. A motion was made by Mr. Jones to suspend the increase this year due to Covid impact. Mr. Dawicki seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Selectman Espindola will advise the Selectboard of this decision during his committee liaison report.

Harbormaster Updates:

Harbormaster Cox advised there is an issue with the parking lot at Hoppy's. There are some bad potholes. He is getting shells and working with the BPW to pick them up. There will be more shells coming after March. Seaview ramp is out and is being stored at the landfill. Pease Park ramp and Hoppy's ramp stay in. There is work that needs to be done on the Seaview Floats. Harbormaster Cox will work with the State's Doug Cameron on that. We are on the list to have a survey done. They are discussing ideas on a small fishing pier.

Mr. Hobson is trying to get onto the zoom. He was commenting on the Casey Boat Realty issue. Chairman McNamara thanked Mr. Hobson for his history on the subject. Let him know we will be waiting on Attorney Crotty's review of the situation in order to make a decision on revising the regulations.

The West Island Dredging Feasibility study arrived today and we will get that over to Mark Reese to sign. The Phase V Harbor Dredging top and middle of Cad is done. Bottom of Cad went out to bid and should be back by end of December, early January. Then they will build the North Terminal. The local dredging will not begin until winter / spring of next year.

Shellfish Updates:

Harbormaster Cox had another aquaculture inquiry. We need to look up the moratorium on aquaculture.

Mooring Ratio:

Chairman McNamara explained they are talking about mooring rules and address to number of moorings. A motion was made by Mr. Dawicki to add to the mooring rules Section 3 the following: The quantity of moorings in Fairhaven shall be determined by the Harbormaster, with a minimum of 60% of the total population dedicated to recreational moorings. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Waterways Rules & Regulations Public Review:

Chairman McNamara would like to set a date for public review of this document. Discussion ensued on how to go about getting the document to the public. Two motions were made. The first from Chairman McNamara for him to draft a letter to the Selectboard get the on the Board of Selectmen Meeting agenda on December 21st in order to make the draft public as well as to submit to town council. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Passed unanimously. The second motion to have the first public review along with Foth on February 4th was made by Selectmen Espindola. Seconded by Mr. Dawicki. Passed unanimously.

Any Other Business:

Mr. Mike Botelho spoke to Selectman Espindola about not hearing back Mark Reese. Mr. Botelho spoke of his issue with not having the portable toilets at Hoppy's this year. He noted he cannot control his people from trying to use the restrooms at West Island Marina. Harbormaster Cox assured that as long as the Covid rules change come spring the portable toilets will be back at Hoppy's.

Mr. Botelho questioned why the response boat is kept at West Island Marina. Harbormaster Cox stated the boat is too big to go under the causeway. That is the reason why it's not kept at Hoppy's. It is a quicker response time as well.

Chairman McNamara suggested the next meeting will be February 4, 2021. Mr. Dawicki made the motion. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Sheri Souza
Recording Secretary

Approved February 4, 2021