

**Fairhaven Marine Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes: December 5, 2019**

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Present: Harbormaster Tim Cox, Chairman Frank Coelho, Mike McNamara, David P 3:06
Hebert, Selectman Robert Espindola

2020 FEB 7
FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Absent: Michelle Potter, Eric Dawicki

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

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. McNamara made a motion to approve the November 7, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Hebert seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Union Wharf Updates:

Harbormaster Cox reiterated that we applied for 3 grants and have been denied two and will reapply for the Seaport Council Grant in February. Still waiting to hear on the SERPED grant.

Mr. Robert Hobson questioned about the boat that has been at Union Wharf for a year that doesn't move. It also hasn't fished in 5 years. Harbormaster Cox let Mr. Hobson and the committee know it is not in the rules and regulations at this time that the boats have to be actively fishing, they only need to have active fishing licenses. Harbormaster Cox noted this issue can be addressed when the committee goes over the new rules & regulations.

Mr. Hobson then questioned Harbormaster Cox about the two trailers and truck that are at Union Wharf. Harbormaster Cox explained those are there due the fact that the BPW is crushing rocks and the construction going on on Washington St. in front the Police / Fire Station. It is temporary and will be moved back as soon as he can.

Mr. Hobson then asked about the parking issue at Union Wharf. Mr. Hobson feels as though Fairhaven Shipyard employees should not be parking in a town owned parking lot. Harbormaster Cox re-iterated to the committee again that it is a public parking lot and he cannot control who parks there. Mr. Botelho asked about the charter boat, the Bounty Hunter, because it's a 60-80 person boat. Harbormaster Cox said it causes no issues at Union Wharf as far as parking.

Mr. Hobson then asked about the negotiations regarding the McLain Seafood Building. Selectman Espindola answered by stating this is an issue that is being handled in the Executive Session and he can't speak of it. He let Mr. Hobson know he can ask to go in front of the select board for an answer.

Mr. Hobson then noted he had another issue with Union Wharf. He is questioning where Noratlantic ends, if that area is owned by the Town. Harbormaster Cox advised as far as he know it is and he is still renting that spot out. He also noted it is in negotiations in Executive Session. Mr. Hobson wants the Town to survey the area. Chairman Coelho said this issue should be brought in front of the select board. Mr. Hobson addressed Chairperson Coelho by stating, "You asked me to bring up things to deal with Union Wharf, and I'm bringing up things to deal with Union Wharf". Selectman Espindola will bring the question to Mr. Rees.

Boat Ramps:

Chairman Coelho asked if there was anything from Cameron regarding the Seaview boat ramp. Harbormaster Cox noted we are on the list. He also noted he pulled the docks out.

The paperwork has been filled out in order to go in front of the Conservation Commission on January 13th regarding the cutting of vegetation at Hoppy's. Chairperson Coelho and Harbormaster Cox will be attending the meeting.

Harbormaster Updates:

Harbormaster Cox noted the upwellers are out of the water and the baby quahogs have been planted for the winter. He showed the committee where on the map they are planted. Also noted they will be put back in the upweller in the spring. He then showed the committee the Go Pro video taken by the divers during the winterization.

New Business:

Chairman Coelho noted that committee is in need of another member. It calls for 7 and there are only 6. He would like to make a recommendation to the Selectboard to add another. Mr. Hebert made a motion to add another person to this board. Mr. McNamara seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Sheri Souza will put the request in to Mr. Rees to get on the agenda.

Harbormaster Cox let the committee know the draft of the new rules & regulations has been completed and are in the hands of Mr. Rees for his review. Harbormaster Cox also asked if we are reviewing these in January that they be the only thing on the agenda because it will take a lot of time to review. He will also find out if it needs to be an article at Town Meeting.

Mr. McNamara asked for an update on the West Island Dredging. Harbormaster Cox noted there is money and we are moving forward. Foth is behind on the project due to the Phase V dredge project. It will be worked on shortly. This will take a year or two to complete.

Mr. McNamara then asked about the delay with the Phase V cad cells. Harbormaster Cox told the committee the project should go out to bid at the end of this month. Fairhaven commercial dredging won't begin until after the cad cell is built.

Mr. Hobson asked about any new coves that will be open for shellfishing next year. Harbormaster Cox is going to plant Senior and Round Cove, and North Cove will open. 1300 bushel have been planted at North Cove. Wilbur's point is now open, November 1st – March 31st. Mr. Hobson asked how many Scallop Licenses have been sold. The answer is 2. Mr. Botelho asked how many days a commercial and a recreational license holder can go out. Harbormaster Cox answered commercial can go out Monday thru Friday, and recreational once a week. The commercial holders also have to call him when they are coming in so he can see what they are getting.

Mr. Michael Botelho then asked Harbormaster Cox to let the committee know about a conversation they had before the meeting began. Harbormaster Cox told the committee he received a call from the Environmental Police regarding Taylor Seafood's aquaculture farm. It's not in his permit to leave a string along the marsh. But it is decided, for now, by DMF that it can be placed there under the discretion of the Harbormaster under emergency situations only. The string was there for repair. A definite answer will come later.

Harbormaster Cox also reiterated that in the new rules & regulations the equipment must be marked clearly with identification. There was discussion about changing the rule regarding the balls at the aquaculture sites. Harbormaster Cox said again that they can make a change when the new rules & regulations come out.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting be held January 9, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sheri Souza
Recording Secretary
Approved February 6, 2020