

Fairhaven Marine Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes: February 6, 2020

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK

Present: Harbormaster Tim Cox, Chairman Frank Coelho, Mike McNamara, Michelle Potter, Andrew Jones, Selectman Robert Espindola

2020 MAR 16 AM 10:31

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Absent: Dave Hebert, Eric Dawicki

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

Approval of Minutes:

Harbormaster Cox made motion to approve the minutes the December 5, 2019 meeting minutes. Mike McNamara seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Union Wharf:

Harbormaster Cox noted that the SEC is reviewing our grant application again now and they will announce in February if we will receive that grant this year. The Town of Fairhaven put in for \$1,000,000.00

Selectman Espindola stated that without getting into too much detail, progress has been made regarding the question as to ownership of the spot at Union Wharf that Mr. Hobson questioned at the last meeting.

Boat Ramps:

Harbormaster Cox stated he has not heard from Doug on where we stand as far as when Seaview Boat Ramp will be put on the list. We will not know until the start of the fiscal year. Once put on the list it will be a 3-4 year project.

Harbormaster Cox then moved onto Hoppy's Landing. He went to the last BPW meeting to talk about the two aprons that will be created for each driveway. The main entrance will be 35' x 26', the secondary entrance will be 25' x 33' long curbs will also be added. Both will fan out. We will be going in front of the Conversation Commission on the 24th for approval.

Harbormaster Cox also updated the committee that the parking meter at Hoppy's has some issues due to the salt water. He ordered a spare bill acceptor so we will have to replace when issues arise in the future. He is working with the Building Inspector to build a dog house type shed to better protect meter.

Harbormaster Updates:

Harbormaster Cox updated the committee on the Phase V dredging schedule along with the hours of operation being 7am – 11pm with a noise reduction from 9pm – 11pm. He

also provided them a view of the map where the cad cells are located along with what businesses are being dredged.

Next he updated the committee on the new waterways rules & regulations.

Harbormaster Cox told them the rough draft was submitted, Mark Rees made some changes which are now in the hand of Foth Engineering. The final update will come from Foth by the end of next week. The goal is that it will be presented at the February 24th Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Coelho shared the email that came from Mr. Rees stating the process of which the committee will receive the draft.

1) The proposed Waterway Rules and Regulations will be submitted to him 2) He will submit them to the Board of Selectmen and 3) The Board of Selectmen will be asked to refer them to Marine Resources Committee for comment. 4) After receipt of those comments the Board of Selectmen will vote on the final document. Chairman Coelho then asked if there would be public hearings regarding this matter. Both Harbormaster Cox and Selectman Espindola answered yes. And Foth engineering will also be here to address questions. Harbormaster Cox also noted nothing can be approved until the Town Meeting in May. He has put a place holder for an article. The major changes that are being made are to the mooring rules.

Harbormaster Cox stated because it has not been a harsh winter he believes the baby quahogs will be put back in the upweller early. He will be making a few repairs to the upweller in March. Mr. Mike Botelho asked if the baby quahogs are being monitored. Harbormaster Cox checks on them once a week. Mr. Jones asked if there were any security concerns. Harbormaster Cox noted no major concerns. There are cameras at Hoppy's, the upwellers are locked.

Chairperson Coelho then asked about the dredging on West Island. Harbormaster Cox told the committee that a feasibility study needs to be done. There are two phases to that study. Phase 1 will cost \$9,950.00 and Phase 2 will be \$22,950.00. This study needs to be done in order to move forward and get us shovel ready. We need to be shovel ready in order to apply for a grant through Mass Works. The cost to become shovel ready falls between \$100,000.00 - \$150,000.00. He will also be working with Paul Foley next week in order to look for other grants that can be applied.

Mr. McNamara asked about if this project was appropriate to use the waterway user money. Harbormaster Cox confirmed yes it may be appropriate. Harbormaster Cox also noted he has no control over where that money goes. It is done by Mr. Rees, the Board of Selectmen, etc. Selectmen Espindola spoke about the committee was to make a priority list on what specific projects should be done over the course of the years and where they believe funds should maybe be expended. Nothing has changed because the committee has not yet made this list. Selectmen Espindola believe a priority list with recommendations to the Board of Selectmen will help propose where

the funds should go. He also suggests make a motion that is general enough to find funds. Harbormaster Cox reiterated that he will work with Mr. Foley to fund the Phase 1 & 2 and if the committee wants to make a recommendation on the side that that is a good idea.

Mr. McNamara proposed a motion that the committee seek funds to begin the engineering in order to become shovel ready by organizing finances from the waterway user fees and or other means, starting with the engineering of the feasibility study for West Island dredging, phases 1 & 2 costing \$32,900.00. Andrew Jones seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Michael Botelho then asked where all the parking fees go to at all the boat ramps. Harbormaster Cox explained that anything paid to Hoppy's remains in the Hoppy's Revolver account. The others into the General Fund. Mr. Botelho would like to charge out of town cars / trucks a fee. Chairman Coelho suggested leaving it as is for time being. Selectman Espindola suggested again to prioritize a list to see if we have enough money to do what we need to do before asking to change policy.

New Business:

Mr. Jones was asking if the board has ever discussed a multi parking ramp parking pass. Chairman Coelho answered by stating all funds for Hoppy's are separated into the Hoppy's Landing Revolver. Mr. Jones noted he understands that but maybe a percentage of the multi-parking pass can go to Hoppy's and the balance to the General Fund. He's asking to look at the numbers to see what a new pass would cost as well as what percentage should go to each account. Selectmen Espindola thinks it's worthwhile to discuss at the next meeting. Sheri will get some numbers together.

Michelle Potter then asked if low tide bothers Pease Park. Harbormaster Cox answered no it does not. Michelle Potter then asked if weren't they going to fix up Seaview. Harbormaster Cox said yes, that is our goal. He also noted that Pease Park is on the Phase V dredging and Seaview was originally on the West Island Dredging to have a channel put in. Mr. McNamara stated Seaview is the committee's second priority and it will be good to get us back on the States radar.

Mr. McNamara reiterated that the committee needs a formal prioritization reflecting what the charter of this organization would like suggest to be done in 2020. Harbormaster Cox agrees but that list cannot come from the Marine Resources Department. The committee needs to create the lists and letters. Mr. Jones has offered to create the list. Mr. McNamara suggests that at the next meeting we forego a regular agenda and work on the task list. Selectman Espindola suggests making it more than a one year plan. Some of the big projects may fall upon Capital Planning. Mr. Cox also suggested some

of the projects such as the West Island Dredging can be broken down into phases. And also regarding the West Island dredging we may be able to resell the clean sand.

Selectman Espindola thinks the committee should receive a one page summary of where the money from the waterway fees and general fund go as well as guidelines. Selectman Espindola does not mind asking Mr. Rees for the information. Per Harbormaster Cox, Sheri can gather the info but the request should come from the committee / Selectman Espindola.

Selectman Espindola reminded the committee that the waterway user regulations may come in at the same time as they are forming the task list and that it will take priority. Harbormaster Cox suggested adding an additional meeting in March to go over the new regulations.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting be held March 5th at 6:30 pm.

A tentative meeting was scheduled for March 19th at 6:30.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sheri Souza
Recording Secretary

Approved
March 5, 2020