

Marine Resources Committee
Minutes of Meeting
November 30, 2017

Attendance: Chairman Frank Coelho, Harbormaster Timothy Cox, Robert Hobson, Vincent Manfredi, David Hebert and Mike McNamera were all in attendance.

Absent: Selectman Daniel Freitas, Michelle Potter, and Michael Cordeira were absent.

Acceptance of Minutes: October 26, 2017 – Robert Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2017 meeting and was seconded by David Hebert. The motion passed unanimously.

Shellfish Permits – Tim Cox:

Harbormaster Timothy Cox wanted to make a suggestion to the committee in regards to shellfish permits. Presently, the Natural Resource Department spends \$1.50 per shellfish button. Mr. Cox would like to create a lifetime button for seniors for the next permit season. Mr. Cox noted that a vote at this time would not be necessary, as he was simply making a suggestion on the matter.

Chairman Frank Coelho felt creating a lifetime button for seniors would be a good idea. Mr. Cox also added that doing so would mean saving senior Town residents money. Robert Hobson asked if the permit season ran from January 1st to April 1st. Mr. Cox replied that licenses would not be necessary until April 1st.

Union Wharf Fees – Tim Cox:

Harbormaster Timothy Cox handed out a docking fees sheet regarding Union Wharf. Mr. Cox stated that he had sent out emails to the Harbormaster group he belongs to in order to see what other areas are charging. Mr. Cox made a recommendation to use Option 4 on the fee sheet to increase rates to 10% for next year. Mr. Cox also stated he would want to recommend the 10% increase to the Board of Selectmen every five years. Mr. Cox informed that these fees were created by both Town Administrator Mark Rees and Mr. Cox himself, and that these fees are being brought to the attention of the committee for further discussion.

Boat owner Tim Powers asked if the prices were guaranteed to increase regardless of the percentage. Mr. Cox replied that payment plans could be discussed further once fees are put in place as a definite. Chairman Frank Coelho asked the audience for any recommendations that could be made to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Powers recommended the fees be broken quarterly. Mr. Cox asked the audience if they were in agreement with the 10% increase. Boat owner Eric Moniz said he disagreed and asked what him and other boat owners would receive for the increase.

Discussion ensued.

Robert Hobson said he would check with the Board of Public Works to see if each boat could receive their own key to a shut off. Mr. Cox said that would be fine. Mr. Moniz interjected, asking why boats at Hoppy's Landing have water and boats at Union Wharf do not. Vincent Manfredi stated the committee is trying to get a sense of what other boat owners want and what they need.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Manfredi thought a 10% increase was a bit much, especially if work needs to be done. Mr. Cox stated the rates have not increased since the year before last. Mr. Cox also informed the committee that the cameras at Union Wharf could not be fixed because it is the responsibility of homeland security. Mr. Moniz asked Mr. Cox where the money for Union Wharf goes and Mr. Cox replied that the money stays in a general fund. Mr. Cox stated again that the fees were still to be determined.

Mr. Coelho asked if everyone was in agreement with quarterly fees. The audience was in agreement. Mike McNamera made a motion to recommend Option 4 to the Board of Selectmen for the December 18, 2017 meeting and was seconded by David Hebert. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McNamera wanted to discuss the water matter further. He stated that boat owners should be aware that they may have to police their own spickets and pay separate water bills.

Mr. Coelho informed the committee that another motion needed to be made on the matter of quarterly payments and a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Manfredi made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that quarterly payments be approved and was seconded by Mr. Hebert. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Coelho encouraged all to attend the December 18, 2017 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Union Wharf Regulations:

Harbormaster Timothy Cox informed the committee that Selectman Robert Espindola found a grant that would help write the Rules and Regulations for Union Wharf. Mr. Cox further explained that he had applied for the grant and is currently waiting for a response. Mr. Cox handed out a Regulation packet for the committee to discuss.

Robert Hobson questioned Mr. Cox in regards to the spot at Union Wharf being given to someone who was not on the waiting list.

Discussion ensued.

Vincent Manfredi stated that a drawing of Union Wharf needs to be created to divide where people can and cannot dock their boats, as well as to see how much space is left.

Discussion ensued regarding what space would be used and for what purpose.

Mr. Manfredi made a motion to recommend two boat spaces for commercial boating, since it is desired and there is a waiting list and was seconded by Mr. Hobson. Mr. Cox and Mr. McNamera opposed the motion. The motion did not pass.

Mr. McNamera made a recommendation to further discuss making a possible amendment to the motion. Mr. Manfredi asked what other use would the spaces be designed for. Mr. McNamera stated one spot would be used for a permanent slip and one spot would be used for a transient to allow for flexibility. Mr. Hobson asked what kind of boat would be allowed to utilize the space. Mr. McNamera replied that only a commercial Fairhaven boat would be allowed to utilize the space. Mr. Manfredi stated that if the boat would be a transient, a regulation should be created that states how long the transient boat can stay and at what rate. Mr. Manfredi asked Mr. McNamera if he would be willing to propose a time limit on the transient spot. Mr. McNamera replied that the transient boat would only have thirty days. Mr. Manfredi expressed how he thought thirty days would be sufficient a sufficient amount of time.

Mr. McNamera made a motion to amend Mr. Manfredi's motion, making one spot for a permanent slip and one spot for a transient for a commercial fishing vessel at a rate of \$25.00 per day at the discretion of the Harbormaster and was seconded by Mr. Manfredi. The motion passed unanimously.

Eric Moniz asked what would happen if the transient spot was not being utilized. Mr. McNamera stated that the committee would then reevaluate the matter. Mr. Manfredi wanted to clarify how unfair it would be to take away discretion from the Harbormaster.

Pease Park Boat Ramp – Selectman Daniel Freitas:

Harbormaster Timothy Cox was unsure as to why Selectman Daniel Freitas wanted to speak about Pease Park, however Mr. Cox had his own issue in regards to the boat ramp that he wanted to speak about. According to Mr. Cox, the beginning part of the dock is broken and needs to be fixed. In addition, Pease Park is to be worked on in the future once money is determined on how to fix.

Mooring and Anchorage Rules and Regulations:

Harbormaster Timothy Cox requested that the committee hold off on having a discussion on this matter until the next meeting.

Harbormaster Updates:

Harbormaster Timothy Cox informed the committee that the dock at Union Wharf would be closed off starting January 1, 2018 until March 31, 2018. Letters would be sent to all three big boat owners notifying them of the closure.

In regards to Hoppy's Landing, a beam was put up, camera's were installed, wood around windows were replaced, along with a new door. There are three cameras currently and one camera is being put at the parking meter. Only Mr. Cox and the Police Department can view camera footage.

Mr. Cox also spoke to John Charbonneau from the Board of Public Works in regards to the Seaview Boat Ramp. The dock is to be removed this coming week.

As a side note, Mr. Cox wanted to include how much of a success the upweller was this year.

New Business:

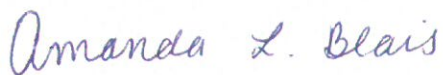
Harbormaster Timothy Cox spoke with Human Resource Director Anne O'Brien about uploading the Union Wharf waiting list to the Town of Fairhaven web page. Ms. O'Brien is currently working on this matter.

Mr. Cox informed the committee that he is in the process of hiring a part-time Administrative Assistant for the remainder of FY18; a full-time Administrative Assistant will begin in FY19.

Mr. Cox asked the committee if the December 21, 2017 meeting could be postponed to January 2018. Mr. Cox made a motion to move the next scheduled meeting to January 18, 2018 and was seconded by Mike McNamera. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Frank Coelho made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. McNamera. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectively submitted,



Amanda L. Blais
Recording Secretary