

Marina Advisory Committee Minutes

August 5, 2020

Present: Joseph Aberdale - Chair, Walter Baron, David Stamatis, Martha Wilson, Frederick Felix, John Wolf, Will Sullivan

Meeting was called to order at 7:07pm.

Venue: Zoom meeting

Announcements Open Session and Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for July 8, 2020 were approved as submitted. Walter moved and Martha seconded.

Harbormaster Report

Will stated that the marina has been very busy with many new boats. There are still computer problems. There is a 3% charge for credit cards applied to the card user. The staff provided a recent rescue service to the owner of a 37 foot Sea Ray that ran aground at Billingsgate Island when it struck a rock pile. The shellfish constable warden's boat was used for the service. There was an accident at the launching ramp when a car driver attempted to drive behind a boater who was backing his trailer down the ramp. Will stated that Mike Flanagan will retire on December 31, 2020.

Marina Working Plans

John, Frederick and Walter submitted marina working plans in response to the motion passed at the last MAC meeting and there was discussion about them

Dredging Update

Joseph provided information obtained from a conversation with the GEI dredging project engineer. The federal Natural Marine Fisheries Service is refusing to agree to grant a dredging permit to Wellfleet because they are taking the position that Area 2 is not a mooring field but a "beneficial mud flat." Their position is that Area 2 is new dredging and cannot be classified

as improvement dredging because it has not been dredged in the last 50 years. The agency is requiring mitigation in order to sign off on a permit. The mitigation fee is based on a square footage charge and for Area 2 the fee would be fifteen million dollars. Joe telephoned the lobbyist in Washington D.C. who has been a great help to Wellfleet in securing funds to dredge the channel. The lobbyist stated that the Natural Fisheries Agency has been a major obstacle to other cities trying to secure dredging permits. He recommended that we continue to work with the Army Corps and GEI to secure the required permit until after the November 3rd election when we can apply lobbying actions to whoever is elected. The lobbyist also spoke about a federal agency that Wellfleet can appeal to in order to get the Natural Marine Fisheries decision overturned. The lobbyist is aware of the appeals agency overturning Natural Marine Fisheries in favor of cities and towns in the past.

New Business and Future Concerns

None

Next Meeting: September 2, 2020

Martha made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Frederick

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joseph Aberdale