

Marina Advisory Committee Minutes

July 14, 2021

Present: Joe Aberdale - Chair, Walter Baron, Frederick Felix-Vice-Chair, Martha Wilson, Kevin Coakley, Sam Peper, David Stamatis
Guests: Rebecca Taylor, Thomas Siggia, Nancy Civetta-Shellfish Warden, John Wolf, Alfred Picard

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm.
Venue: Zoom

Announcements, Open Session and Public Comments

None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of June 23, 2021, were approved unanimously on a motion made by Martha and seconded by Sam.

Shellfish Grants Placement and Equipment Regulations Enforcement

A discussion by all Committee members took place with serious safety concerns expressed regarding shellfish gear being too high and not conforming to the required regulations. Boats and boaters are at risk in Blackfish Creek, Mayo Beach and the breakwater areas. Small boat boaters are discouraged at Mayo Beach. Concerns were expressed about protruding rebar racks, the lack of marker and navigation buoys and the issue of shellfish bed expansions. The channel is not properly marked.

Nancy spoke about the need to appreciate that shellfishing people make their living off of their grants. Nancy also stated that "there are no gross gear violations." She said the issue of grant expansions will be coming before the select board in a public hearing and the Committee should be heard at that meeting. Her goal is for boaters and shellfish people to coexist peacefully. Nancy stated that Mayo Beach has had five new grants and three extensions in the last ten years.

Thomas agreed that safety should be an important issue and that the Committee should be heard in all discussions about this matter. He also agreed that Blackfish Creek should have buoy markers.

Kevin stated his concerns about boat safety issues at Blackfish Creek and Mayo Beach. There are boater limitations because of the shellfish gear. He stated that waterskiing is no longer possible in Blackfish Creek. Grant gear at the end of the breakwater is a concern. There should be a moratorium on new grants.

Alfred stated that some of the shellfish gear is too high and it's very much a safety issue. Buoys are needed to mark the channel in Blackfish Creek and the harbor channel. He is willing to donate some buoys. Joe will check with the Army Corps of

Engineers to see if the town can place buoys in the channel. Alfred stated that there is confusion over where some grants should be in the Mayo and breakwater areas. Nancy stated that she is getting the area surveyed. She also stated that she does grant inspections and that all grants are where they are supposed to be.

Alfred also requested that the issue of the fuel truck contract be placed on the agenda. The issue of a moratorium on new grants was discussed. Nancy shared that the Shellfish Advisory Board voted to recommend that there be no expansion of grants. Joe recommended that a letter be sent to the select board requesting that the Committee be involved in discussions and have input into this matter. The Committee requested that Joe draft a letter for this request to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Harbormaster Report

The harbormaster was not present at this meeting.

Marina Concerns

Concerns were expressed about the fuel truck bid and it was agreed upon that it needs to be discussed at the next meeting.

David expressed his concern and frustration about the operation of the fuel dock. He fuels up every day and there is no one assigned to manage the dock. He frequently has to walk around the marina to find a staff person to operate the fuel pump. David also stated that staff do not always monitor channel nine on the radio. He requested that the fuel dock issue should be put on the next meeting agenda.

Dredging Update

Joe reported that the dredging grant awards will be announced soon. The town's engineering contract was recently extended. The contractor bid announcement for dredging Area 1 starting October first should be going out by mid August. Work continues on securing the permit to dredge Area 2, the mooring field.

New Business and Future Concerns

None

The next meeting will be on August 11, 2021.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kevin and seconded by Martha with unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joe Aberdale