

Marina Advisory Committee Minutes

August 30, 2023

Present: Joe Aberdale-Chair, David Stamatis-Vice-Chair, Douglas Straus, James Gray, Edward Kane, Kevin Coakley, Frederick Felix, Martha Wilson, Brittany Tilton

Absent: Martha Wilson, Will Bario

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

Venue: Zoom

Announcements, Open Session and Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Doug requested that the following be included in the minutes. *Doug addressed the need for rules and regulations to be developed regarding the Indian Neck Floats. Britany stated that she has received additional requests made by boaters on the same issue and that they are working on a draft of rules and regulations. Doug requested that he be involved in that process and asked to receive a copy of the draft document.*

Motion to accept the minutes made by Doug and seconded by Kevin.

Motion passed unanimously with the exception of Frederick who did not attend the meeting.

Harbormaster Report

Brittany stated that there will be no dredging this fall and that all boats should be out of the water by October 15th. Winter storage will be for commercial vessels only.

Brittany has been focusing on safety improvements to the docks and has made adjustments to the caissons in the harbor channel so that they will be more upright. Also, reflective tape has been added to the green can. There has been work done on the piers-loose screws, etc. Edward expressed his thanks for the channel markers work issues being addressed as many boaters were requesting the work to be done on both issues.

The hours after Labor Day will be determined by how busy it is after the holiday. If it's slow the hours will be 8:00am to 4:00pm. Martha expressed the need to keep the summer hours at least for two weeks after the holiday.

Doug expressed the need to extend the fuel lines and Brittany stated that the project has to be done after the fuel lines are removed when the boating season is over. Doug also asked why winter storage is limited to commercial boats only. Brittany stated that the new wooded docks have to be hauled out and the commercial boats will be stored on the pier.

Marina Concerns

Edward stated his concern about the incursion of boat bows and gear onto the docks. Brittany stated that this issue is in violation of the marina rules and regulations and that possible solutions to the problem are being considered. She also stated that she has requested some boaters to move their boats back. Frederick also expressed his concern about this issue. Joe emailed to everyone Edward's photos, who were given to Edward by a boater.

Kevin asked about the ice machine issue. Brittany stated that \$125,000 was allocated to study the feasibility of an ice machine and other matters. The shellfish department requested the study and there are questions about whether or not it's needed and who would manage it. Kevin questioned how the grant money would be spent and Brittany did not have that information. Kevin will speak to the shellfish constable about this matter and report to the Committee at the next meeting.

David expressed his desire to have the marina boating season modified to start April 15th and end on November 15th as there is a demand for that change as Wellfleet is the earliest marina to close for the season. He raised the possibility of increasing slip and mooring fees to help facilitate the change. Douglas stated his opinion that the season should be extended as David stated and that there should be no fee increases as staff are here working anyway. Brittany stated that most seasonal employees are gone by October 15th and staffing could possibly be an issue. Joe shared information regarding other town marina closing dates and Wellfleet marina closes earlier than all other towns from Dennis to Provincetown except for one harbor.

Joe stated that the harbormaster working with the Committee developed the present fee schedule of 2%, 5% and 7% respectively covering three years. Doug stated that it is difficult to set a fee schedule without seeing the marina's finances. The meeting Doug was supposed to have with Will last spring to examine the marina finances did not happen. One issue is the lack of a town accountant. Doug agreed to meet with Will to start the process of a marina financial review.

David talked about the problem of boaters leaving the launching ramp and making a left turn instead of turning right. This causes problems as boaters often park in the left travel lane to work on their boats. Brittany stated that office staff responds to the situation when they see it happening.

Doug stated the need for a sign on the launch ramp to direct people to take a right turn and to inform people of the policy when they pay the launching fee. Brittany agreed that a sign would be most helpful.

Frederick reminded everyone that the harbormaster decided when last discussed to not allow boats with trailers to park in the middle of the rear pier parking lot. He also raised the issue of the harbormaster's past endorsement allowing cars to parallel park in the middle of the pier when it is very busy. Brittany stated that the lot was completely filled only two days this summer. Brittany also stated that boaters need to park in the middle when the right side of the pier is filled up with trailers.

Kevin stated his concern and worry about shellfish grants right on the border of the channel and the danger presented as he hit one recently. David said he has seen three boaters drive onto the grant that Kevin hit. Kevin stated the need for the shellfish warden to move those grants back twenty or thirty feet away from the channel. Kevin will talk to the constable about the situation and report back to the Committee.

Edward stated his concern about the pier parking sign. Brittany stated that the sign policy is not enforced. Doug stated that the matter should be addressed by the marina consultant when the evaluation is done. Brittany stated that she is not aware of the status of the consultant's job start.

Doug stated his desire to have more slips added to the marina. Joe shared that many people have raised that issue, including two selectmen. Doug said it is a matter the consultant should address. Doug and Martha said that all available water space should be utilized for additional slips.

Frederick stated his concern that the large boats outside of the channel by the L Pier are protruding into the path of the channel. Doug stated that there was confusion regarding mooring placements this summer in the mooring field and that his mooring had to be moved twice. Doug said that there is the need to address this problem with the harbormaster as there have been near misses of boat collisions.

Frederick expressed his concern about the big boat moorings protruding into the channel before the L Pier and that boaters coming in at low tide or fog may be in a dangerous situation.

Dredging Update

Dredging will not happen this year. Joe gave an overview of the project.

New Business and Future Concerns

The next meeting will be on October 4, 2023, at 7:00pm via Zoom.

A motion to adjourn was made by Edward and seconded by David. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joe Aberdale

