

**Approved 5/11/10**

**CITY OF ROCKLAND  
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
Minutes of Meeting  
April 13, 2010**

**Members Present:** Chair Melissa Maker, Howie Edwards, Sam Ladley, Louise MacLellan-Ruf, Capt. Richard Spear, and Harbormaster Ed Glaser

**Members Absent:** Ken Barnes, Guy Polyblank, and Richard Whitman

**Also Present:** Paul Benjamin, Shari Closter, Steve Hale, Birch Harvey, Frank Isganitis, Fish Pier Manager Al Gourde, Joel Neal, and Heidi Vanose

**1.Call to Order:** Chairman Maker opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. and introduced new member Capt. Richard Spear.

**2. Minutes of Meeting:**

**ACTION:** Ms. MacLellan-Ruf made a motion, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the minutes of the 3/9/10 meeting.  
Carried 3-0-2 (Mr. Ladley and Mr. Spear abstained)

**3.Applications:**

**a. Dock Dogs:** Applicant Clara Gardner provided three maps showing possible scenarios for her proposed "Dock Dogs" event June 11-13. She would need a 20'X40' space for a trailer, as well as space for a pool system. Discussion centered on where each of these components should be located. Mr. Edwards and Ms. Maker thought the pool and trailer should be located on the grass so they did not take parking spaces from boat passengers. Ms. Gardner said this would be a problem if there had been a lot of rain prior to the event. Harbormaster Glaser suggested setting up on the grass unless the weather was bad, in which case the boats would have few passengers that needed parking.

Ms. Gardner had arranged parking for participants to the admission-free event at three satellite locations. Mr. Ladley asked boat owners in the audience how busy they expected to be on that weekend and was told they would be at 25%-35% capacity. Steve Ms. MacLellan-Ruf Hale said having the pool and trailer on the asphalt would minimize the possibility of damage to City property. Noting that there was plenty of parking nearby, Mr. Hale asked how 3,000 visitors could be bad for boats, hotels, and restaurants.

Ms. Gardner asked if there would be a fee reduction if she were not allowed to use the asphalt and Mr. Glaser responded that the City Council set the fees and would have to be petitioned for a reduction. When asked what space the applicants got for their \$800, Harbormaster Glaser said they got the use of "Buoy Park", which had an open-ended definition. He said the Middle Pier boats did not have designated parking and it would be good to have a clearer definition of the space available for events. An audience member suggested a maximum number of events per year be set for Buoy Park, as was done for Harbor Park.

Ms. Gardner said her group would be paying to rent the park and she wanted to know specifically what space would be available to them. She preferred the pool be on the asphalt, so its placement would not be weather-dependent and no damage would result to the grass. There was discussion of previous park use. Ms. MacLellan-Ruf said she did not want to set a precedent by refusing this family-friendly event in order to free up parking spaces.

**ACTION:** Mr. Edwards made a motion, seconded by Ms. MacLellan-Ruf, to go with the yellow scenario (pool on the grass and trailer on the asphalt) for Dock Dogs on June 11-13.  
Carried 4-1-0 (Ms. Maker voted against)

**b. Art Market:** The Harbormaster said the Art Market wanted to reprise last year's position at the top of the hill. They planned to talk with the Farmers' Market about sharing the same day.

**ACTION:** Ms. MacLellan-Ruf made a motion, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to approve the Art Market application.  
Carried 5-0-0

#### **4. Old Business**

**Fish Pier Committee Discussion:** Fish Pier Manager Al Gourde provided a list of possible members for the new Fish Pier Committee. In response to his question, Mr. Glaser and Ms. Maker said that members of the committee did not have to be current permitted members of the pier. Chair Maker asked Mr. Gourde to ask Chad Salvis, Jeff McLean, Glenn Lawrence, Richard Whitman, and Amanda/Josh Allen if they would like to serve on the committee. She said the HMC would approve committee members at the next meeting. Mr. Glaser said procedures and mechanisms for running the Fish Pier Committee would have to be set up. Ms. Maker asked Mr. Gourde to set up monthly committee meetings.

Mr. Gourde said Fish Pier members wanted to fence the upper lot, which was on City property, with barbed wire, for crate storage. Ms. Maker said that issue should be discussed at the first committee meeting.

#### **5. Harbormaster's Report and Updates**

**a. Harbormaster Building Roof:** Harbormaster Glaser reported that the storm at the end of March had taken rotten shingles off the Harbormaster Building. He had patched the worst of the damage, but the cost to repair the roof would be \$400; a complete re-shingling would cost \$10,000. The insurance company would be willing to pay \$8,000, which would actually be \$4,000 after the deductible and depreciation were figured in. Mr. Glaser said the City was talking with FEMA about the storm and this roof was on their list.

**b. Possible Cruise Ship Visits:** Mr. Glaser had received an email from ships' agent Chase Leavitt, saying the 3,000-passenger *Crown Princess* wanted to come to Rockland on October 10 because both Bar Harbor and Portland harbors were booked. He cautioned that this might mean buses were also booked. The Harbormaster also said the *Jewel of the Sea* was scheduled to come October 18.

**c. Independence Maiden Voyage:** Mr. Glaser said the ACL vessel *Independence* (104 passengers) wanted to hold its naming ceremony in Rockland Harbor on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The ship would be in the harbor from July 3-5 and Mr. Glaser thought it would be more likely to attract notable politicians to the naming ceremony if it were held on July 3.

#### **6. New Business**

**Mississippi Blues Trail Sign:** Paul Benjamin explained that there were 100 markers for the Mississippi Blues Trail, 96 of which were located in Mississippi. The group wanted to put a sign in Rockland and had decided to locate it on the Tradewinds' property on Park St. Mr. Benjamin said this was a great honor for Rockland.

**7. Cruise Ship Policy Discussion with Welcoming Committee:** Chair Maker told Frank Isganitis and Shari Closter of the Cruise Ship Welcoming Committee that the HMC's cruise ship policy was a work in progress and the Commission wanted to hear their thoughts on it. Mr. Isganitis asked if Item #12 in the draft addressed Councilor Hebert's mention of including smaller ships, though not local boats, in the \$2 port fee for capital improvements. Ms. Maker said it did not because a decision had not been made on that point.

Mr. Isganitis then asked if the park closure fee of \$600 (Item #2) was included in the \$4/head tax or was separate. Ms. Maker said it was separate and Mr. Ladley explained that for safety reasons the park must be closed to public traffic when large ships were in the harbor. He noted that this was a partial fee; the normal park closure fee was \$1,200. Mr. Isganitis said he felt the closure fee should be part of the head fee and asked where the \$600 went. Harbormaster Glaser said it went to the general fund. Ms. Closter said an option for partial closure was not included in the present form. Mr. Edwards said the HMC would ask the City Attorney to draft a form for partial closure.

Mr. Isganitis cited an inconsistency between Items #5 and #14 regarding the mention of medium and mega cruise ships. The Commission agreed to change the first sentence of Item #5 to read, "Since no medium or mega cruise ships will be using the Public Landing..." In addition, all but the first sentence of Item #14 would be removed. Harbormaster Glaser noted that Rockland would have no Class A ships coming in since it was not a Class A port. He also said the definitions of small, medium and mega ships must be corrected to eliminate gaps in the number of passengers.

Mr. Glaser said the words "partial funding" should be retained in Item #10 because this would be seed money, with additional funds needed. He mentioned that he had added in Item #7 that all vehicular traffic must remain in the park. There was discussion of various traffic flow possibilities.

Mr. Glaser said April was too early for mega cruise ships to visit, since no floats would be in the harbor. It was agreed that May would be the earliest, and October the latest, month for mega cruise ship visits.

Mr. Isganitis questioned the rationale on passenger sizes. He said no medium category was needed because the majority of ships that came to Rockland would carry between 800 and 1500 passengers. Mr. Ladley responded that the policy would be reviewed annually in order to be responsive to the ships' impact on the City. He added that the largest ships would destroy fishing gear outside the harbor.

Ms. Closter asked why Item #15 limited the number of small cruise ships to 35/year when 30 were already scheduled for 2010. Ms. Maker said the City Council had wanted numbers, though the City would take all the small ships it could. Mr. Isganitis said he was worried about large ships that booked 1-2 years in advance and suggested the Welcoming Committee produce a monthly report on potential ship plans.

**8. Other Business:** Ms. MacLellan-Ruf suggested that the HMC meeting time be changed to 6:30 P.M.

**ACTION:** Ms. MacLellan-Ruf made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ladley, to change the meeting time to 6:30 P.M.  
Carried 5-0-0

**9. Adjournment:**

**ACTION:** Mr. Edwards made a motion, seconded by Ms. MacLellan-Ruf, to adjourn at 9:05 P.M.  
Carried 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah E. Sealey  
Recording Secretary