

CITY OF ROCKLAND
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
June 8, 2010

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

Also Present: Fish Pier Manager Al Gourde

1. Call to Order: Chairman Maker opened the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

2. Minutes of Meeting: The secretary arrived five minutes late and the minutes of the 5/11/10 meeting had already been approved.

3. Fish Pier Manager: The Fish Pier Manager said the \$26,000 estimate to repair the sinkhole with money from the Reserve Fund would be considered at the next City Council meeting.

Mr. Gourde reported that he had issued a permit for the *Plan B*, a transient herring carrier that expected to be there for three months. The boat had paid \$1500 for its permit and would pay \$4.50/ton for wharfage, plus \$50/night when tied up. Mr. Gourde said the captain had thought the charge was too high because he had paid \$575/month in the past. Harbormaster Glaser said the \$1500 fee simply allowed the ship to operate from the pier. Mr. Ladley commented that it would be less expensive for the vessel to pay the monthly fee. Mr. Gourde said he would discuss with the City Manager arranging a separate agreement with the *Plan B*.

Mr. Gourde reported that the plan to fence the upper lot was being reconsidered by Live Lobster. They might rather decide to use a trailer for the storage of crates on the lot. The lobster trucks on the pier were trying to arrange to keep them on FMC's property, but had taken them up to Holmes St. today. Ms. Maker asked him to make sure this issue was taken care of soon.

Finally, Mr. Gourde reported he was still waiting for two backordered pontoon floats.

4. Harbormaster's Report and Updates

a. Middle Pier Boat Launch Ramp: Harbormaster Glaser said the Pearl restaurant had done a phenomenal job, but the City was left to deal with the concrete boat launch area. He said the concrete was a magnet for slime and suggested the HMC ask Public Works to remove the concrete so the area could return to natural beach. He asked the members to look at it to see if they concurred. If that plan didn't work out, Mr. Glaser said, he could get pre-cast cement pieces from the State. Either way, he recommended removing the old concrete from the area, which allowed hand launching only. Members discussed options.

b. Navy Port Risk Assessment: Mr. Glaser reported that on Thursday the required port risk assessment necessary before bringing Navy ships to the Lobster Festival would be conducted. This year two ships, a fast patrol boat and a 600' assault carrier, were scheduled. Mr. Polyblank asked if there would be an exclusive zone around the ships. The Harbormaster said one side of the Public Landing, as well as an area around the ships, would be blocked.

Ms. Maker asked about a ship rumored to be coming to Prock Marine for repair. Mr. Glaser said Cianbro, working out of Prock, would service an oil exploration rig near the dumping ground. It was expected to be here for two to four weeks.

The Harbormaster noted a letter from Royal Caribbean Cruises to the City Manager. The letter complained that the City's increase in passenger fees was excessive and had been implemented too quickly. Chair Maker noted that these were standard port fees. Mr. Glaser said the cruise lines set their prices a year in advance and port fees were part of the equation. He suggested the HMC might want to send a letter supporting the fees to the City Council; the Chair said she would do that.

c. Other Issues: The Harbormaster reported that CMP had removed two electric poles from the park and said there would now be simpler wiring overhead. Submerged Lands had rescinded the permit for a second marina, acquired by the Landings Restaurant seven years ago.

The Harbormaster said by ordinance only he could give permission for the mooring of residential craft. He had provided members with a copy of the ordinance definition of residential craft. Mr. Polyblank was reluctant to craft rules simply to deal with the *Monhegan*. Mr. Glaser said the *Monhegan* must meet the ordinance requirements. Chair Maker asked members to think about it so it could be addressed at the next meeting.

5. Old Business

Middle Pier Rental: Captain Spear asked if the Middle Pier was included in Buoy Park. He said the three main yearly events used the entire property, but in all other cases he thought the Middle Pier should be left open. The Harbormaster asked for a definition of Buoy Park and Middle Pier. Capt. Spear replied that the paved area was Middle Pier and the grassy area was Buoy Park. When asked if the park at the top of the hill was part of Buoy, the Captain said it was.

Referring to an aerial photo of the area, members suggested and discussed several configurations and proposed boundaries to separate park sections. Mr. Glaser said flexibility was required so parts of the park could be rented without interfering with public access. Chair Maker wanted to preserve parking for Middle Pier customers. Members agreed that for only the three major annual events would Middle Pier be included in the rental. The Harbormaster said he would draft definitions to clarify the respective park areas. These could be finalized at the next meeting. Members thought a moratorium on new events would preclude any confusion in the meantime.

ACTION: Ms. MacLellan-Ruf made a motion, seconded by Mr. Polyblank, for a 180-day moratorium on approving any new events.
Carried 7-0-0

6. Adjournment:

ACTION: Ms. MacLellan-Ruf made a motion, seconded by Mr. Edwards, to adjourn at 8:10 P.M.
Carried 7-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah E. Sealey
Recording Secretary