

Harbor Commission Meeting

Date: 12/15/15

Present: Melissa Maker (Chair), Guy Polyblank, Richard Whitman, Sam Ladley, Ed Glaser

Absent: Howie Edwards, Joe Auciello

Guests: Ron Huber (Friends of Penobscot Bay), David Myslabodski, Stacey Keefer (Maine Boats, Homes and Harbors), Matthew Ondra (DMR)

Staff: Jim Chaousis, Audra Caler-Bell, Chris Donlin, Bruce Boucher

No minutes to approve.

Fish Pier (Richard Whitman)

All on track with dredging and site work. Pier cleaned up; pallets removed, etc. No winter projects yet. DOT resurfacing and dredging (million \$ project) – surveying done. Smack boats still coming in from the island. China buyer is still buying.

Harbormaster:

Complaint received from J&J Lobster (North End) – ferry wakes tearing up that side of the harbor. Ed talked to Jim Anders who talked with the ferry captains about the wakes by the breakwater that keep rolling...They were very receptive.

M/V Monhegan – Kendra Priestley informed him the boat would be out of the water by the end of last week but it's still there. They have a place for it she said.

Rockland Gulf broke free and ended up on the beach by the Samoset. J&J Lobster very good about it. Still registered as a tanker, he has insurance. Yanked it off the beach and hauled it out. It will be scrapped (would have cost \$150,000 to fix it before they'll insure it again).

Ed received a call from the Bremen Harbormaster about a boat pulled in from Boothbay – bringing it to Rockland; another rotting fishing boat in town.

Audra Caler-Bell (Assistant City Manager) and Chris Donlin (Assistant Public Services Director) will be the staff liaisons to the Harbor Commission until a new Harbormaster is hired.

Applications:

Maine Boats/Homes/Harbors application (Stacey Keefer) presented. Commission asked if there were any changes this year. They will not be repeating the Saturday evening event from last year. Dates are August 9 – 14th, 2016. In 2016 there are four weekends in August so it will be held the weekend directly following the Lobster Festival. Richard motioned to accept the application, Sam seconded the motion. Four for, none opposed. Application accepted.

New Business:

Comprehensive Plan update (Audra) – Eric Gallant can do it for free (the marine resource part). Time frame will be within the next two months per Audra. A lot of blanks to fill in by the Commission – content, policy direction – fill them in if you can. Weigh in on text. If there are any questions, Audra can work with everyone on the final pages/strategies. This will be the

perfect time to update any/all for strategic planning. Guy asked if a special workshop could be set up after the holidays, before the next meeting.

Harbor Department Restructure:

Recap of December 7th, 2015 Council Meeting

Budgetary aspects

How does the Commission want it structured?

Brunswick and Falmouth examples – harbormaster is part of the Police Department. The Charter/Code allows for an administrative change.

1. Input on Job Description
2. Character Traits
3. Amalgamation of Departments (or not)

We do need to hire a Harbormaster though. Need to update the job description. (examples of recently updated descriptions attached for reference)

Sam – doesn't feel law enforcement aspect of the job should be a priority as it's only a small part of the harbormaster's job. A lot of maintenance and managing resources; goes better with Public Services. It's not a police job to manage resources.

Richard – hands on, has to be there, has to be proactive – if the water gets rough and something gets broken it needs to be fixed right away.

Jim Chaousis – throwing out the idea that it's a police officer/part time officer three months of the year – skills being matched up with the appropriate people. Public Manager – Public Services should be doing the physical maintenance work.

Harbormaster position is hands on, need to know how to fix things correctly when stuff comes up – which end of a boat is which, etc. Not a deskbound Harbormaster.

Police Department is also less busy in the winter. School resource officer maybe in the off season.

Additional characteristics would be needed if they were to become a part time officer. Finding a good harbormaster needn't be muddied up by seeking other characteristics. Rockland is a large federal harbor and a broad range of skills are needed.

Nine months busy/no vacation can be taken – building up comp time – a week of vacation can be taken in slow time – not a lot of spare time left over in the winter. Jim Chaousis offered there are different ways to look at time management, physical work, reprioritize and place resources appropriately. Sam mentioned daily maintenance needs to be done in the summer. Assistant Harbormaster does this day to day in the summer. Jim Chaousis – not a cost savings, more of a value-added, juggling 3 or 4 balls, already doing a lot of different jobs.

Chief Boucher – Brunswick connection (worked there prior to Rockland). Very familiar. Harbormaster there is a full time academy certified police officer. Hard to fill this position, different mindset – some worked out/some didn't. Must have desire/background for harbormaster position. If under the Police Department, vacation would be covered by others in the PD filling in with what needs to be done. Can't combine with School Resource officer. Maybe Animal Control officer could be combined. Not something that can be absorbed into the PD and get it done right.

Ed Glaser – How do you enforce law administratively vs. police officer – seemingly much more enforcement instead of administration. You can always enforce more things.... Different approach (good or bad) with Police Department officer. If a citation is needed currently, Police Department or Coast Guard is called upon. How often does that happen? Once every three years or so... not a common occurrence.

Does Public Services have the ability and personnel to be there when it's necessary? When something needs to be done NOW it needs to be done NOW. Chris Donlin stated they'd get it done. Public Services capable of anything – design stuff/floats – question about scheduling (working hours). In the past, things weren't being done correctly by P/W – requires oversight by the Harbormaster or someone who knows.

Melissa Maker – Assistant harbormaster question...Are we going to have one? This could be a direction to look at. We currently have a seasonal assistant harbormaster.

Richard Whitman – Harbormaster would benefit having a clerical/office person.

Audra – How do we want the Harbor to run? Commission should look at it. It was looked at 12/13 years ago, and they decided then the police department tie in wasn't needed. Amending the job description can run parallel to hiring if need be.

Sam – No need for the Harbormaster to be a police officer. Seafaring background most important. Should be a fellow boater and harbor manager.

Ed - When Rockport was hiring they determined the most important skill to be someone who can deal well with people.

Jim Chaousis will communicate with Melissa Maker about the job description updates.

Budget needs to be looked at. Ed straightened it out when he came aboard. Acts as internal control officer too.

Melissa Maker – job description handed out is bad...there is a much more recent one somewhere. Commission will see the job description from Jim through Melissa, the Chair.

Fish Pier – Will Clayton mentioned at the Council Meeting that we should also look at the Fish Pier in this discussion. We can take a look at it after this. The City taking it over was the right way to go.

New Business

Audra – “Public Landing” Design Grant, received November 2014 – nothing has been done with it yet, we have an extension until the end of June, 2016. \$22,000 to do a redesign of Public Landing. What does this entail? The landing = the dock/the pier (not the circle, etc.) Trestle should be replaced but it should stay in town as it’s historically significant (last surviving bit of limestone railway). How will it fit into the larger park?

Invest a lot of time in a study, connect in at a later date. Reconcile conceptual designs to fit together and achieve what we want down there. Money has to be spent by June! Is it ready for an engineer or a designer? Should the granite footprint be enlarged, trestle removed and replaced – a lot of damage was done to the granite in the Patriot’s Day storm.

Sam proposed approval of Steve Hale’s Captain Jack application. Richard seconded it. All in favor.

Matt Ondra (DMR) is considering joining the Harbor Management Commission. He’s from Pennsylvania originally. He’s sailed on schooners in Camden. He’s been here for five years.

Ron Huber: Coastal Maine habitat restoration project – are we eligible for a grant? Sturgeon on list of threatened species. Pilot study to review? Jim received it in previous municipality - Jim to review with Ron.

Sam Ladley will not be here at the January meeting (missing six meetings in 2016). Sam will be here the first week of January.

Sam motioned to adjourn. Richard seconded the motion. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Sandy Billington