

Harbor Commission Meeting

Date: 3/22/16

Present: Melissa Maker (Chair), Howie Edwards, Sam Ladley, Richard Whitman, Matthew Ripley (harbormaster), Audra Caler-Bell (staff)

Absent: Guy Polyblank, Joe Auciello

Guests: Matthew Ondra

Public Comment: None

Fish Pier (Richard Whitman)

Chemical analysis – 60 pages sent to the Army Corps of Engineers – they will review and decide where to dump the 10,000 cubic feet of material from dredging (which includes sand from the former snow dump side). Lobsters are still coming in.

Harbormaster (Matthew Ripley)

Matt has found the office. He attended training in Castine. He's got his computer and phone and is working on float repairs (busted cribbing). Next year plans on craning them instead of dragging them to minimize damage. Matt met with Coast Guard and Police Department about jurisdiction. Commercial mooring permits have been sent out with an April 1st due date. Organized and inventoried.

Assistant harbormaster position will become a full time, year round position with 75% of the time on the Fish Pier. They will report to Matt but will manage the Fish Pier. The Harbor and Fish Pier will be proposed to Council as one budget going forward. Dock Stewards will again be hired. The Commission has concerns about the reserve funds at the Fish Pier – these can't disappear – worked 15 years to get it dredged with money set aside. Sam mentioned the budget should have two separate lines – fees constructed to leave money in funds. Richard was also concerned about separate lines – more temporary staff needed for summer. He's proud that no tax payer money has gone to the Pier. He also hopes the new person will be more hands on around the Pier – and not afraid of confrontation. Melissa stated the position requires someone with a backbone – the Fish Pier should be our pride and joy. It would be great if it was gated at night as there is valuable equipment around; and the perimeter could use some beautification – fence repairs, etc. in addition to building maintenance (cedar trees on outside). Audra will check with Public Services and see what they can do.

In the future, moorings will all be online with a centralized payment system – boaters can pay on their phones, etc.

Matt met with Ray Sisk of Knox County Emergency Management about harbor security and completed TWIC card. Coast Guard inspection will be held on April 13th – about maintaining security for cruise ships.

Police meeting – Matt has summons authority but if he has an issue he'll call the PD to issue the summons. The future assistant harbormaster – looking for someone with law enforcement

background. Sam mentioned that law enforcement issues never really come up – in 12 years, never saw a summons. Sam also mentioned that we have a police presence (their boat – but no one is licensed to use it) – condition of it – harbormaster’s boat will get us through this year. PD doesn’t use their boat but it takes up prime space so maybe we can just use their boat and have only one – the PD boat is a good one! Maintenance on the current harbormaster’s boat is expensive and a more sturdy boat will be needed in the next couple years – sturdy and presentable.

Sam asked about the M/V Monhegan which is still sitting on a hook in the harbor. Still nothing done and it’s going to sink. Howie thinks the City Attorney should push soon and the heirs can start by paying mooring fees. The chain hasn’t been checked, etc. Is there a “derelict policy” in the ordinance? Abandoned vessel? (Laura T was the last one and for \$3300 they got rid of it on an excavation barge) Matt will check into it.

Fees for moorings are moving along – late fees will be waived this year until April 15th due to the delay in getting them out. Commercial (none were sent out) will have fees waived until April 1st.

Army Corps of Engineers – commercial permits, some were issued 50 years ago with the only requirement being an initial permit. Matt is treading lightly – Ed’s records are challenging and there was no hand down of information.

Putting docks in toward end of April is Matt’s goal. Best time for O’Hara to use crane. Middle Pier is first on the list. South end docks need a lot of work. Just got six new ones – some older ones can go to Chickie if not too bad. Question about which boat will be at the end of Middle Pier – Morning in Maine (Charlie W.)

Matt’s questions for the Commission – Is anyone aware of a mooring waiting list? No one knows of one – still room available. Is there a list of those wanting to move in? Calendar for Park Events? Schedules? List of applicants? He has the current fee schedules from the end of last year.

Matt’s met with a few of the dive service guys to service the 19 city moorings. Calligan got the bid, get them done in the next month.

Matt has the same cell phone number as last year (691-1952).

Joe Auciello will miss three meetings – may want to Skype in – He can write a letter and resign or the Commission can write a letter to the Mayor. Not sure on Guy’s intentions. Five members is okay (used to be 7).

Old Business

Milone and MacBroom – short version of proposal. One kick off meeting. They’ll come every month until done. Will be on agenda for next meeting in April. Need to get them a list of

stakeholders – names/groups- Terry Pinto is a good idea; Eric Hebert (harbor park redesign), boardwalk connection, farmers market front person, etc. Send names to Audra via email – Audra will stay on until June probably and then helping with Fish Pier grants.

Pearl Street - City-owned road behind the Landings – where floats are stacked – next to the Fish Pier. The Landings think it's theirs but it's a city road – ROW is only one way in/out Fish Pier. They store floats there which blocks the road to Fish Pier entrance. Good time to bring this up while talking about redoing the Fish Pier.

Fish Pier funding is same proportion as when it was built – City \$100,000; State \$400,000; Federal \$500,000. No money is available for tourism – beautification. Public Pier is harder. Ask islands, North Haven, etc. could they use spots for islanders to tie up? Pier users, public input needed. Sam represents all the small cruise ships (Blount/American). Harbor Trail people tie in with the boardwalk. Where could the trestle piece go if replaced? Sandy Beach park? It's rusting but historically significant – interested in redesigning entrance to the docks – would be nice to have two entries. Business will increase.

New Business

Re: Letter from Dot Black asking for fee waiver for Lobster Boat races overnighters. HMC doesn't waive fees – address it to HMC, then it goes to Council and we tell them we say no.

Howie motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Sam. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Sandy Billington (secretary)