

Harbor Commission Meeting

Date: 4/21/15

Present: Melissa Maker (Chair), Howie Edwards, Guy Polyblank, Richard Whitman, Ed Glaser (Harbormaster)

Absent: Joe Auciello, Sam Ladley

Guests: Brian Plourde, Maine Lobster Festival

No minutes to approve. Prior meeting had no quorum.

### **Fish Pier:**

All good at the Pier. No meetings were held. Lots of improvements in the works, dredging, There is DOT support for \$1,000,000 – our Pier has many shovel ready projects that can be funded - Two new hoists at \$40,000 each. All buyer slots are filled, same folks as last year: Island Lobster Group on the east side, M&M lobster (2 spots), Double Eagle and Freddie Mi (buyer from China). Al's supposed to schedule a Fish Pier Committee meeting for May (Glen, Richard, Amanda and Al). The east side is all done (repairs) and looking good. Using concrete next winter instead of tar. One of the mobile bait dealers (Fran) has passed away.

### **Visitor: (Brian Plourde)**

1<sup>st</sup> official approach for fee waiver for the Lobster Festival (says the letter was submitted). Brian came to answer any questions, etc. Spoke to the past 68 years with last year being the first year that the fee was not waived. Richard Whitman spoke about this being tax payers money and he doesn't feel right waiving anyone's fees as the Commission are not elected officials. Brian explained that contributions get cut back (working at 1% now) and the festival is a non-profit entity whereas the other festivals are for profit. (\$30,000 fees - \$15,000 for police and \$15,000 for park rental) Guy commented on taxpayers in Rockland are not wealthy and questioned the purchase of a fire truck for Thomaston.

Ed said that historically the City didn't have fees for the park. Then they did – Mildred Merrill Park quid pro quo. Instead of paying fees we'll buy you a park – there was an agreement made that after the park was paid off, then they had to start applying for a fee waiver. Same thing with ambulance purchase. Applying for a waiver – come up with something in exchange. City charges for park use came about 20 or so years ago, after Mildred Merrill Park.

Guy made motion to waive the fees. Not seconded, thus fees are not waived. The next step for Brian is to go before the Council.

Consensus – would love to see the Lobster Festival work with the City to apply fees to a City project, as they have in the past. It's a great value for everybody and a great working relationship.

**Harbormaster:**

Snow Park floats (9 total) – good skids too – three new this year (?) Public Works picked them up. They're better made than the old floats. Leftovers can go to Recreation/Rene at Chickawaukie. The new gangway being built for the Public Landing over at Prock's is massive and will hopefully be finished and in the water by the end of May - secured to eighteen foot pilings (before hitting ledge). Remanufacturing one of the floats – new tubs underneath doubling floatation.

**Budget:**

Income = biggest difference this year. \$25,000 more in cruise ship fees. \$22,482 = port development; additional food vendor = lease revenue, \$10,000 more for piers and floats. \$40,000 to the general fund Half the money from festival fees is supposed to go to Harbor Park redesign and half to Port Development reserve account – not sure what happened but the HMC will bring it up again this year.

Sign at the Middle Pier – upper part by the Police Station – approved by Code office – no more little signs!

Fisherman's memorial – next month a meeting is planned – someone needed from HMC – Richard Whitman volunteered to represent the HMC and Sam Ladley may too.

**New Business:**

Sea Scout building lease – Jim Sharp's proposing a 5% increase and gets to use it all winter (\$3,280 per year). Request approved by the Commission.

Annual Windjammer Races – Would like a fee waiver to anchor at the Public Landing and spend the night in Rockland. Dockage fees can be waived if approved (Weekend of July 4<sup>th</sup> – staying the night of July 3<sup>rd</sup>) With 12 – 14 schooners the fee would be approximately \$2400. Ed would like to see the fee waived – We have more windjammers than anywhere else and they bring people down to see them. Though felt to be a worthy cause, again, not the job of the HMC to waive fees for anyone. Ed will bring it to the City Council and ask for a reduced fee instead of a waiver.

Parking Commission resurrected – Requesting HMC input on parking all around the waterfront. Ferry Terminal is a problem area. Hoping to have them come to a HMC meeting to discuss further (or prior to a meeting – 6:00 PM).

Alcohol Policy – Is there a way to open it up? What's presented is derived from other towns – seems a bit lengthy.

Signs – Park Event signs can now be applied for through the HMC (application to put signs on City property).

Waterfront Development discussion – Managing the harbor and the fish pier (not just lobsters) support for all (bait dealers, etc.) O’Hara’s, The Landings, Journey’s End – the fish pier is sandwiched in between the marinas and there are complaints every year. Look at the value to supporting industries. What’s the vision for 20, 30, 40 years down the road? Move it down by the cement towers? It’s the deepest part of the harbor. Plan for pressures down the road – think of where the harbor goes in the future –fish pier, cruise ships, etc. Railroad in the south end - commercial railroad access for fish pier?

Howie motioned to adjourn at 8:05 PM.  
All in favor.

Submitted by Sandy Billington