

Harbor Commission Meeting Minutes: March 12, 2013 6:30 PM

Present: Melissa Maker (Chair), Ed Glaser, Guy Polyblank, Al Gore, Howard Edwards, Jr., Sam Ladley, Captain Richard Spear, Richard Whitman
Absent: Louise MacLellan-Ruf (abroad)

Welcome/Introductions: George Chappell of the Courier Gazette present. He will be covering the Harbor as economic activity in Rockland.

No public comment.

Minutes from last meeting approved.

Fish Pier Director's Report

- February Advisory Board meeting – Everyone present with the exception of Greg Bickford who will no longer be part of the board due to non-attendance. There is an individual interested in joining the board (Jim Parker). The board can contain up to nine folks although they've never had more than six at a time. Richard Whitman is the Chair of the Advisory Board with Chad Selvis as back up. The next meeting is scheduled for March 29th. The Chair decides if a meeting will be held in a particular month. It's okay for a member to be out so long as they are called out. Member will be unexcused/absent if no call is received.
- Presented 1.4 million dollar grant at Pier. Met the afternoon of March 11th – going to see where they stand – ready to go project! Beal estimates \$4500 for survey not including the Prock charge of \$600/day (man in a skiff...stable platform required to site it) Not sure when we'll know about the grant – next step is to get with the RFP person.
- Really good meeting with Advisory Board. Optimistic for the future!
- Melissa added that she had met with Angus King and his opinion of Rockland is that it's the best place on the coast – balance of working harbor with tourism is commendable. He wanted us to know that.

Harbormaster Report

- Homeland Security Meeting: Met with the Maritime Security Subcommittee in Ellsworth (people who go to meeting – set up after 9/11) – consists of Sheriffs, Marine Patrol, FEMA, Customs officials, etc. Met for a 1 and ½ hours on IED's...people with facilities don't go to these things – should be held farther south – only 4 attended from below Camden. There was a TSA speaker as well – TWIT card – no readers in Maine. Although they are mandatory, they can't be scanned in Maine. There will be another big exercise like they held last year – not sure where yet.
- Snow Park Ramp: Grants – Community Development Director and David Cole, consultant – what State grants are available for waterfront? Snow Park CIP budget – engineering study. Redesign public boat launch (\$6,000 – want to use planning grant money – 25% match). Snow Park ramp where it's crumbling...gets a lot of commercial traffic which serves the area. The flex of the soft ground needs support (bed, I-beams, 3" fill). \$50,000 SHIP Grant for it – part of the Governor's sequestration of bonds. If we pay for it, then it's no longer a state ramp – would belong to the City and our own rules/fees.
- Public Landing: New Public Landing – look at it (Community Development Director and David) down the road. Ramp length extended to 80' – closer to ADA compliance. Discussed priorities: What does the City want to apply for? Every other year with Fish Pier or all at once? (Al's looking for flood mitigation funding that's available right now.)

- Money left from Big Project - \$6,000 for 55' ramp (33% match – us) on plan for spring. This will improve it at low tide in the meantime. Heavier and mounted differently (2 prong mount at the top will be stronger.)
- Processing mooring permits. March 15th is the deadline – coming in at same rate as last year.
- Budget submitted to the City Manager – same numbers as last year. City Manager has told all departments to cut by 10% to prepare for the end of revenue sharing. Cut out a dock steward, uniforms, travel, power consumption, no MV Monhegan in the winter, BIG cut is the port-o-potties in town – no funding – cutting them all out of budget. Expenses currently are the same as what's taken in (from taxes) – where else can we cut 10%? Harbor Commission would like to see the budget. Lobster Festival fees (if collected) would cover the cost of port-o-potties. Ed will mail out budget to commission tomorrow.
- Homeland Security Meeting (revisited): New initiatives – “Suspicious Activity Registry” (SARS) – call it when we see something suspicious.

New Business

- Map of north end handed out – shows O'Hara's barge in the channel. Move channel out 100' – might make sense for economic development along the coast. (Moorings would need to be moved, etc. – just thinking of other ways...)

Applications

- Beggar's Wharf – for sale, may sell/dock his tow boat at middle pier spot.

Adjourned at 7:40 PM.