

Town of Wells Maine
Harbor Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 25, 2019 5PM
Wells Town Hall
Sanford Road

Present: Town Manager Jon Carter, Chairman Mike Caplan, Harbormaster Michael Yorke, Ryan Liberty, Scott Worthing, Paul Dever, Dave Harrison, Charlie Bashaw, Kate Mooney, Robert Hobbs, Selectman John MacLeod, Meeting Recorder Cindi Davidson

Excused: Francis Dudley

1. Welcome: John MacLeod is our new Selectman representative to the HAC.

~Over July 4 weekend several kayaks were lost at the Cape. They had broken loose and were drifting, but the Coast Guard spent a long time searching in case someone fell overboard. ID stickers are available at the HM office.

2. Harbor Update

- a. Parking at Eastern Shore has become a problem for boaters. There used to be 30 spaces reserved for mooring holders, not intended for charter guests. We are dependent on the tides to determine when we can go out. Several people became frustrated and sold their boats because of the parking issue. Weekends, especially Fourth of July, are a disaster for parking. HAC has suggested that the charter boats pick up people on the western side. Scott said that charter boat customers are starting to park at the boatyard and crowd out his customers.

- b. Status of the Pump Out Grant Application

The electricity is in and the plumber is ready to work whenever the pump arrives. The team from Rhode Island is coming to finish the installation.

c. Ice Machine Policy

Some rules are needed; Mike Yorke will draft them. People should put their names on their vats. Mike got a designated vat for the small, commercial people to take a 2 bucket limit and not raid other people's vats. The pass code needs to be changed because too many people know it now.

d. Alternative removal of Helix Infrastructure concept for the dredge

Mike demonstrated a tool he made from the old dredge that he uses to remove the helixes. ACOE has authorized him to do whatever is necessary to maintain the moorings and open up the harbor at high tide. The sand will be displaced, not dredged. About 41 helixes are not useable.

e. Harbor Ordinance discussion on amendment regarding removal of vessels.

Under our ordinance, the HM would have to declare a vessel "abandoned" to start the process. It isn't in State law because the intent was to let towns craft their own language. An active commercial vessel can stay in the harbor. If it isn't actively fishing (i.e. during the winter) it must be removed.

Motion by Charlie Bashaw, seconded by Kate Mooney, to authorize the HM to draft the language for an ordinance. Passed unanimously.

f. Abandoned boat in trailer parking lot

Josh Robinson is the last registered owner and said he sold it 2 years ago. He gave Mike a letter authorizing him to dispose of it. One possibility is to donate it to MMA or the Landing School, let them repair it and sell it.

g. Update on new skiff dock

The rails are in and the electricity will be added.

3. 2019 Boating Season

- a. Update on mooring renewals and wait list.

Copies of the list were distributed. It is also posted on the Town and HM websites.

- b. Update on HAC list of projects and issues for review

The HM and the group have done a great job checking off items on the list. The flowers look wonderful. The area by the clam hatchery has been cleaned up. The picnic tables on the pier are old; we need some new ones. Kudos to Mike—the area looks much better.

4. Friends of Wells Harbor Report—Ryan Liberty

~The BrewFest went well; there were no incidents.

~The PowWow is this weekend. The trailers are already arriving. The organizers promised to man the trailer parking lot this year. This is a Chamber of Commerce event, and people who want to end it need to inform the Selectmen. The permit is for a mass gathering and doesn't specify when they can arrive and when they have to leave. The fee is to attend the PowWow; parking at the gazebo is always free. The signage is confusing because people who want to attend the evening concert assume there is a charge. There should be signage that the concert is free. The RV's parallel park and block the parking spaces for the concert goers. Smoking and small fires also occur at the park. The question was raised why the police don't prohibit overnight parking.

~The signage is up for the knot tying station.

~HarborFest is next weekend. It is run by the Town and Rotary and continues to grow each year.

~Woodies at the Cove will be held later this summer.

~The art project will resume this fall.

5. Shellfish Report—Everett Leach

They didn't get any seed stock so the hatchery is not running. The building needs some repairs.

6. Open to the Public—None

7. Review and acceptance of June 27, 2019 minutes

Motion by Charlie Bashaw, seconded by Scott Worthing, to accept the minutes as written. Passed unanimously.

8. New Business

~Kate is still working on Chick's memorial plaque.

~Harbor Road has been paved. Nice job. The engineers are finalizing the sidewalk location.

~Charlie Bashaw mentioned that the scale model of Cookie Banfield's tug boat in a glass case was donated to the Town by his son. It used to be displayed in the HM office and now is missing. Ken didn't move it. It disappeared before Mike came here. Maybe it went to the Historical Society or Library. Ryan will check with Chris Mayo.

9. Next Meeting: August 22

Respectfully submitted,

Cinndi Davidson, Meeting Recorder

Accepted by,

Michael Caplan, Chairman