

Islesboro Harbor Committee
Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 18, 2024
In- Person Meeting at 6:30 PM, Town Office

APPROVED
7/18/24

MINUTES

Call the meeting to order and establishment of a Quorum:

Chair Ken Smith called the meeting to order and a quorum was established at 6:30 pm.

Members Present: Chair Ken Smith, Earl MacKenzie, Dylan Purington, Gil Rivera, and Peter Anderson, Ex Officio
Via Zoom: Palmer Sargent
Members absent: Stan Makara

Others Present: Dick DeGrasse
Via Zoom: Robert Giles, Hilary Giles

Approval of Minutes of January 18, 2024.

Motion: To approve Minutes of January 18, 2024, as written, E. MacKenzie, seconded by D. Purington. No Discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Anyone Wishing to Address the Harbor Committee

Dick DeGrasse asked Bob Giles about his plans for the pier and oyster farm in Broad Cove. The pier is not there, and the 12 markers of the oyster farm are unlabeled. It can't be used as an anchorage. Bob replied that he doesn't feel the need to respond. They've been approved by the DMR, and how they plan the farm is not Dick's concern.

Ken Smith asked what this has to do with the Harbor Committee. Dick replied that we should know what's going on in our harbor. He would like to invite a group of boaters to anchor there, but feels the oyster farm might be in the way.

Earl MacKenzie stated that the pier does not belong to Bob Giles; it is owned by another party. He added that this is not the place for this discussion. The anchorage has been discussed numerous times. Dick has a dispute with his neighbor; the Harbor Committee does not want to get involved in that. The approval was renewed for the oyster farm, and it will soon be marked according to the way it should be for the summer.

Dylan added that this is a state-approved LPA, and asked what Dick would like the Harbor Committee to do. Dick replied that he would like to know what the plan is for that area, so he can invite his group. Dylan stated the Giles plan to have an oyster farm there.

Ken advised Dick to go through the Department of Marine Resources if he has any concerns. The DMR has a satellite picture of every site around the island. They can send Dick the info.

Earl stated he would follow up with Bob Giles to find out when the markers will go in.

Harbor Master & Deputy Harbor Master Reports

- Earl MacKenzie reported on the damage to Town facilities after the winter. There was more electrical damage than he had realized. Greg Janney evaluated. There were substantial pieces of wood rammed in under the broken conduit. It's all been removed and replaced, it's now fully functioning. Town Manager Janet Anderson has the bill. Hopefully she can submit that to get some of the disaster money to pay for it, as it was near \$10,000.

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- There was some minor hardware damage. Moorings moved in the first storm. Some were replaced with bigger moorings and set out further with longer chain. Dylan confirmed that the outer float is still a little off kilter.
- The winch is fixed. Josh Conover is taking over responsibility for that, since they utilize it more than PYY does.
- There's been a lot of float damage, and debris from that by the Grindle Point ramp. Earl has been in touch with all of the owners of debris and floats. Starting Sunday, the tides will be higher. Some of the various floats are tangled together. The owners (Kerry Pendleton, Randy Durkee, Les Smith, the Conovers, and Seth Wilbur) are coordinating. Phil Berry is going to come down with a dump truck and excavator. They were supposed to have it done today, but they are jammed in, and it needs to be done at low tide. This next week, things will be moving.
- Earl stated that we will probably have to put guidelines in place that they can bring floats in to unload lobster traps or repair them, but then they need to go somewhere else. We shouldn't store floats there; they can't withstand the storms. This may come under Harbor Master authority. They can get conditional permission for floats.
- Dylan is thinking we could put in Helical moorings for the fishermen to use on the east side of the boat ramp, and keep the west side of the ramp for active repairs. This is just a suggestion.
- Dylan also suggested that if someone has a float, they will need to set a sufficient stabilization (cross ties, etc.) Earl feels that the sea action during storms will break up the floats no matter how they are set. Dylan is concerned about trying to ban. Maybe just suggest storing them in Crow Cove or other safe places. Earl would like to get together with the fishermen and discuss options. Winter weather is getting more severe.
- We've had a few more requests for moorings, not in the Town Mooring Field. Earl has worked with the boatyard to determine where they should go.
- The dinghy float at Seal Harbor has inner hardware damage. The dinghy float at the ferry is in better shape than we thought; Christian at PYY thinks we can get by a few more years.
- Dylan stated it was suggested that we put in guest moorings. Earl is opposed, due to liability and expense.
- Dylan reported we got one bid for repairs at Grindle Point, for the railing and rotten wood. Dylan asked if he has the authority to approve that. Earl suggested bringing it up to the committee, but Janet would have to be involved. Ken advised him to talk with Janet.
- Earl reported that the sides of the ramp at Grindle Point are breaking down. If we are able to get grant money, we can use some of it for this. Something to keep on the back burner.

Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Bulletin

- Ken distributed copies of an email he just received from the Department of Marine Resources regarding Storm Relief funding for the seafaring part of the state. The state is preparing to distribute \$60 M in storm relief to be distributed through the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund.
- Ken stated we can probably use this to pay the electrician's bill. It relates to a working waterfront.
- Dylan stated that there's a grant available for building a dock that improves its resiliency.
- Earl stated that the Grindle Point dock was partially funded by grants for commercial fishing. He said he spoke with Janet about looking to get an advocate to work with the Town to pursue grants like this.

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- Pete suggested working with Cressica Brazier from the Energy Committee. She is a whiz with grant-writing and finding money. Working with her could be a way to collaborate with the Energy Committee in an attempt to get money to repair docks, especially if it's electrical-related. Pete will reach out to her.

Approve a recommended FY25 budget

- Ken distributed a budget spreadsheet. The bottom number of \$8,000 is for a dinghy float. Janet said the Town has money in the contingency fund for this if needed.
- Pete found a discrepancy between this budget and the one that was presented to the Select Board.
- A couple lines of duplication were found and amended.

Motion to accept the proposed budget of \$40,300, as amended, by E. MacKenzie, seconded by D. Purington. No further discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no.

Dylan's Harbor Master certification

- Dylan discussed his experience with Harbor Master training at Maine Maritime Academy in Castine with about 50 other Harbor Masters. They did a series of seminars on topics such as grants, aquaculture, mooring inspections, etc.
- Dylan felt he learned a lot, with a variety of folks from around the state. Some Harbor Masters are also in Law Enforcement.
- He completed a safe boating test.
- Earl mentioned that there's been a change in Maine law in licensing for younger boaters. Maine has adopted a safe boating test. Earl would like to put that in the paper, and post it at key places in Town and at the Tarratine Club.

Discussion of developing a Comprehensive Harbor Plan

- Ken stated that the DMR came out with a different approach this year. They're trying to get uniformity around the state in how to deal with aquaculture. The idea is to have a plan that residents can support.
- Because of all of the pressures that are coming about, DMR is having answering sessions throughout the state. Some communities are opposed to aquaculture because of concerns that towns have limited input. In Maine, DMR is in charge of aquaculture. Towns don't have authority over aquaculture farms, but they do for clamming. People are frustrated about this.
- Ken would like to look into getting a planning grant. The Town can decide the best course of action for Islesboro. We don't know who owns all the moorings in the Town mooring field. If we can hire someone through grant money to identify who owns the moorings, they can utilize info from the DMR with their satellite pictures and coordinates for all the moorings. The technology is available, but it's time consuming, and must be maintained.
- Last year (2023) we had 27 aquaculture farms around the island. We have more this year (2024). Additionally, if we know who owns moorings, we can better communicate with boaters in advance of significant storms.
- Dylan suggested we can start by printing Google Earth.
- Earl stated his grandson has a drone that we could use to take photos.

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- Ken stated that in considering of someone to address the many tasks, we need to have an agreement about which things are most important, and how much time it's going to take to complete the tasks, while also developing information that the Harbor Master and Deputy Harbor Master can use to in the performance of their duties and responsibilities.
- Palmer added that having a comprehensive plan puts the Town in a position of being proactive, and not just reacting to situations. Usually, when Towns apply for grant money, having a comprehensive plan puts them in a more favorable position.
- Earl suggested getting together with Dylan this summer to get started on the drone photos and updating the mooring maps. We do need to know every single mooring.
- Ken will get photos from the DMR website that will show moorings and their coordinates. He will send it to Earl.
- Shey Conover created mooring maps that are in the hall at the Town Office. It would be good to connect with her to see how she did those.

Discussion of ways the Harbor Committee can collaborate with other Town committees.

- The Select Board has asked us to look for ways in which we can collaborate with other Town committees. We had a meeting on February 15th with the Chairs of the various committees.
- We tried collaborating with the Recreation Committee on a swimming float & dock project last year. We also attempted to collaborate with the Shellfish Committee and create an Aquaculture subcommittee, but that got shot down. As we move along, there will be more reasons to work with other committees.
- Pete suggested a collaboration with the Energy Committee, as well as the Sea Level Rise Committee. They are working with engineers right now, so they might be able to help with-guidance.
- The Lighthouse Committee and the Sea Level Rise Committee have been working together.
- Ken asked the Harbor Committee to stay open to ideas of working with other committees, and share information that comes up.

Discussion: What can the Harbor Committee do to help residents prepare for coastal storms? What boat owner information is currently available and assessable to the Harbor Masters, in the event of a predicted storm?

- "As sea level rises, we can expect that somewhere around 2050, we're going to go from seeing just a few days of high tide flooding a year to seeing somewhere around 70 per year. And then later, towards the end of the century around 2100, we might see high tide flooding nearly every day," according to Dr. Hannah Baranes, a Coastal Scientist.
- Ken stated that if we can expect around 70 storms like the few we had this winter, the Harbor Masters' jobs are going to change dramatically. Earl replied that he has already been making numerous phone calls before weather.
- Ken added that as a public service to the community, the Harbor Committee will most likely take a role in warning people about significant weather-related events.
- Earl stated he has been advising people to search for "Penobscot Bay Marine Forecast" and keep the first link on their phones. This is a simple thing that people can do.
- Ken stated that the Harbor Masters will be making recommendations to people who are putting in docks. They need to be higher, constructed with more durable materials. Dylan stated that there's a number for the new recommendation. It might be up 3.9 feet from the previous standard.

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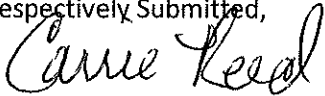
- Anything on the eastern side of this island, is going to be exposed. Harbor Masters will be more important than they have been in the past in the development of docks, mooring locations, and other recommendations.
- Earl agreed that Harbor Masters need to be more proactive.
- Pete suggested updating a master list of mooring information, and creating a single-page flyer or mailer of some kind, that you can present to people who are registering for a new mooring, and send to people who have moorings. Earl replied that they have that for moorings that are in the organized harbors, and those fields are now full.

Duties and responsibilities of Harbor Masters

- Ken gave out copies of the Ordinance.
- Harbor Masters have discretion, but not beyond the intent of the Ordinance. The Town voted on Ordinances.
- Ken is encouraged that we enforce the Ordinances. As tough as it may be for some people, the Town expects the Ordinances to be enforced.
- Anything that the Harbor Committee can do to help, let us know. If you have to cite someone who doesn't follow directions, Fred can issue a summons.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:33 pm by E. MacKenzie, seconded by D. Purington. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no.

Respectively Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary

