

Islesboro Harbor Committee
Special Meeting
Thursday, June 18, 2026
In- Person Meeting at 5:30 PM, Town Office

☑ APPROVED
8/20/26

MINUTES

Call the meeting to order and establishment of a Quorum:

Vice Chair George Evans called the meeting to order and a quorum was established at 5:35 pm.

Members Present: George Evans, Earl MacKenzie, Dylan Purington, Gil Rivera, Greg Janney (Zoom) (5:58)

Members Absent: Ken Smith, Peter Anderson

Others Present via Zoom: Emily McCarthy, Peter Willcox

Approval of Minutes of April 16, 2026, Regular Meeting.

George clarified that for the Grindle Point pier, the rot is on the decking, and not the deck beams.

Regarding the moorings that were moved in front of Crate's place, the big storm mooring is in Seal Harbor.

Motion: To approve Minutes of January 22, 2026, as amended, E. MacKenzie, seconded by D. Purington. No Discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.

Anyone Wishing to Address the Harbor Committee

- Emily McCarthy from the Island Institute spoke to the Harbor Committee. She is on the Climate Planning team, and works with municipalities to bring grant-funded and other resources, and connecting with communities with opportunities to build resilience. In this case, it would be with Islesboro's working waterfront.
- Two weeks ago, Emily visited Islesboro and walked the pier with Dylan. They looked at points of potential improvement, and talked comprehensively about harbor management at Grindle Point and the benefit of potentially having a third party put together a long-term deferred maintenance plan.
- The LEAP Grant is funding that's coming through the Northern Border Regional Commission in Upstate New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Island Institute applied for this money specifically to work with Milbridge, Stonington, and Islesboro. Each community will receive \$15,000, plus Island Institute staff time and relevant technical experts. The project guidelines are broad. The money goes to design and plan. It's not for on-the-ground project implementation, but rather developing a plan that the town can use to apply for other grants.
- When Dylan and Emily met, they talked about partnering with an engineering firm and having them do a useful plan for maintenance priorities for the pier and docks over the next 15 years, considering storm surges and general upkeep.
- The timeline started in December and it's an 18-month process.
- Emily added that having a plan like this will be useful for bigger grants, such as the Working Waterfront Resilience funds at the state level. Some of the other team-members at the Island Institute, Abby Roche and Olivia Richards, are offering technical grant-writing support. Emily would be able to help scope out the plan and develop a grant application.
- Earl stated this would be worthwhile. The first step would be to get an engineer to assess the pier and get the engineer's stamp on it. We don't have the ability to do this in-house.
- George stated we would use the initial money for an engineering study, and then apply for a Working Waterfront grant. Included in the engineering study would be their recommendation of raising the height of the pier.

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- Emily stated that she is speaking with some of the firms that have existing relationships with Islesboro, and also talking with colleague Olivia, who is doing similar work with private waterfront landowners, and is familiar with the firms that are aware of the scope of the work.
- Dylan will continue communicating with Emily, and will update the committee.
- Emily stated she is happy to write out a report or memo to help inform the committee.
- Dylan added that Emily has a certain amount of time that she can dedicate to helping Islesboro with this.
- Earl added that the Midcoast Council of Governments (MCOG) also helps us with grant-writing.
- George stated that Ken has proposed that we pursue a Working Waterfront grant this year. It couldn't be more timely for Emily to attend today.

Status report on current application though Working Waterfront for Seal Harbor pier repairs

- Earl reported that Reed Silvers is no longer at MCOG. We are now working with Meg. She has said that we probably won't hear news on this grant until late summer, but our application is fine.

Harbor Master & Deputy Harbor Master Reports

Harbor Master

- Earl reported that he has turned over geolocations at Seal Harbor to Dylan. This summer, Earl's plan is to get together with Ryan and someone from PYY to wrap up the mooring information.
- Many of the buoys are now well lettered with names, but there are still some that are unknowns. Earl doesn't think they are being properly maintained. He has recently spoken with some of the known owners to give them a kick to do that.
- Boats are going in daily. We will be putting notices on any of the dinghies that don't have stickers. One boat showed with a dinghy sticker but had a larger than proper engine, and the owner is going to take care of that.
- We need to get more of the pendants on some of the moorings.
- At the last meeting, Earl had talked about the tree that the notice board was mounted on. The Town has already taken care of remounting this. Earl has posted his name and phone numbers in there.
- We need better coordinates of the anchorage boundaries. Earl will do this when he has time.
- We haven't heard from NOAA regarding the power cable crossing notification on the charts to Seal Island. Earl has submitted the locations for both ends.

Deputy Harbor Master

- Dylan reported that he has spoken with some fishermen about possible harbor improvements, to get some feedback. They mentioned they would like a wash-down pump. Dylan thinks this is a reasonable consideration. One suggested a second winch. That might be wishful. Another suggested placing pilings along the boat ramp for careening. That seems reasonable, if we were to get a grant.
- The fishermen and harbor users wish to thank George Evans for his cleanup efforts.
- The PYY ramp enforcement project is in process and constrained by time due to seasonal workload.
- Dylan has been in touch with Town Moorings and has begun uploading coordinates for Grindle Point. Earl has provided coordinates for Seal Harbor. He will get these to Randy.
- The railing at the southern end of the pier requires repair or reinforcement. Dylan will ask Christian at PYY if they can reinforce it while they're there.

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- Dylan placed a piece of plywood over a small, non-structural hole in the big incline. We intend to repair with aluminum or plastic strip.
- Dylan shared photos of derelict floats to show what's going on just outside our harbor boundary. There's one ashore on private property. The owner of the float said he will take care of it. Dylan will try to find out who owns the derelict floats that are just outside the harbor, and ask what they plan to do.
- Earl stated that the proper thing would be for them to go to the side of the ramp at the beach and disassemble them.
- Dylan stated that the hazard of derelict floats might be one reason to try to increase our jurisdiction. Earl replied that we have complete jurisdiction around the island to do that if it's a hazard to navigation.
- Dylan reported that there are a high number of moorings going in at Crow Cove.
- There are six dinghies that require stickers. Dylan will give them until the end of June before enforcing.
- Things have been good—no one is parking on the float for too long.
- Earl stated that someone mentioned to him that vehicles are being left on the dock for too long. Dylan replied that Eric had a baby, and he left his truck there for a few days. He added that other than that, no one is there for too long, because he nudges them to keep moving.
- Earl stated that we have some life rings and new yellow float lines for Seal Harbor and Grindle Point.
- Gil asked about changing the ordinances so that the town can enforce the derelict float issue. Earl stated he thinks the Harbor Masters have the authority, because the floats become a hazard to navigation. There is also Marine Patrol. The owners are liable if the pieces of their floats cause damage to any property, and that's a good incentive.

Election of Officers, Chair & Vice Chair

- George stated that Ken Smith wishes to step down as Chair of the Harbor Committee, but wishes to continue to be a member of the Harbor Committee.

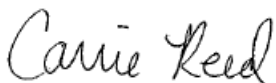
Motion to nominate George Evans as Chair of the Harbor Committee, E. MacKenzie, seconded by G. Rivera. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no.

Motion to nominate Greg Janney as Vice Chair of the Harbor Committee, E. MacKenzie, seconded by D. Purington. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:11 pm by D. Purington, seconded by E. MacKenzie. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary