

Islesboro Harbor Committee  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, February 23, 2023  
In- Person Meeting at 6:30 PM, Town Office

APPROVED

4/20/23

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 6:28 pm.

Members Present: Chair Ken Smith, Dylan Purington, Earl MacKenzie.

Via Zoom: Stan Makara

Members absent: Gabe Pendleton, Gil Rivera, Palmer Sargent

Others Present: Kim Grindle, Dick DeGrasse

Via Zoom: Rachel Rolerson Smith, Jim Mitchell, Hilary Giles, Lisa Russell.

Approval of Minutes of October 27, 2022.

**Motion: To approve Minutes of October 27, 2022, as written, E. MacKenzie, seconded by D. Purington. No Discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed 4 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.**

Anyone wishing to address the Harbor Committee:

Dick DeGrasse addressed the Committee with an ongoing concern about an oyster farm that has been established in Broad Cove.

- Dick stated that he's had communication with the Department of Marine Resources about the oyster farm, and told them PYY had put a buoy above his mooring, and it will be inspected with a diver. Earl asked if he had found his mooring. Dick replied that he believes so, but he's not sure. They looked at the coordinates and thought they had found it, but they will dive in the spring.

Harbor Masters' Reports

- Earl reported that he and Stan had talked, and there's not much new to report. The docks seem to be fine. See Maintenance Report below.
- Ken asked about applications for new moorings. Earl replied that there have not been many this year. A couple people got rid of their moorings through attrition, and others made arrangements with them to take over the moorings. There is no waiting list. For transients, we've been able to find empty moorings and have helped make arrangements between the owners and visitors. It's gone well.

Mooring Inspection Form

- Ken stated the reason for the proposed Inspection Form; that all moorings within the Town mooring fields be in compliance with the Town Ordinance, which requires mooring inspections every two years.
- Responsibility will fall mostly on the three local boatyards, who have qualified divers to do the inspections. They will complete the form and give a copy to the Town Office. Earl said he and Stan have been in touch with the boatyards. They are all in agreement. They will keep copies

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on file at the boatyards, and will make sure every mooring they service is inspected every two years. If someone objects, the Harbor Masters will be the enforcement arm.

- Each boatyard has different color coding for lettering on their mooring balls. If there is an issue, the Harbor Masters will know which boatyard to call.
- Anyone who wants a mooring will get a form. The Town will provide a list of the local boatyards, and the owner will make arrangements.
- Ken suggested putting a notice in the local paper regarding the new process.

**Motion: To approve Mooring Inspection Form, as written, E. MacKenzie, seconded by D. Purington.**

**Discussion about the Ordinance and procedure. Roll Call. Motion passed 4 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.**

#### Sub-Committee of the Harbor Committee and Shellfish Committee

- Ken talked about the reasons for this joint subcommittee. One of the things that has surfaced is an increase of aquaculture farms in the area. In an effort to reduce any conflict, we proposed a subcommittee with members from the Harbor Committee and Shellfish Committee. People who have aquaculture farms (or are applying for one) will sit down with that group and have an informational exchange. This also provides an opportunity for the public to learn about what is being proposed, and gives us a chance to interact with the applicant.
- The Subcommittee would have two representatives from the Harbor Committee, and two from the Shellfish Committee.
- Currently, the Harbor Master is the only one required to sign off on LPA applications regarding impacts to fishing and navigation. The Harbor Master does not sign off on leases.

**Motion: To establish Aquaculture Subcommittee, E. MacKenzie, seconded by D. Purington.**

**Discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed 4 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.**

#### Expansion of Mooring Fields

- Ken stated that the Town population is growing. The Harbor may be under pressure in ways that we can't foresee right now. There are some things the Select Board can do through their attorney to ensure that the Town can expand our current mooring fields or add another one. If another mooring field is needed, what does Town need to do?
- Earl stated he spoke with the head of the Army Corps of Engineers, Jay Clement, who has since retired, and he said when a boat is not in an organized mooring field at night, theoretically they are in an open anchorage and need a light on. If there was a lawsuit, that may come up. There might be value in saying the whole of Seal Harbor is an established mooring field. That would put the onus on the boats coming in at night to use more care, and protect the outer moorings.
- Earl reported that CMP recently provided "Cable Crossing" signs for the cable between Seal Island and Hermit's Point.
- Dylan stated his concern is if all of Seal Harbor is an established mooring field, it may be at risk of filling up with moorings. Earl replied that he doesn't think it would change anything, it would

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just mean that we can control it better. It's very deep water out there, and it's expensive to put moorings in the deep water.

- Ken stated he didn't know where the current mooring field boundaries are. Earl stated there is a point beyond Big Tree, and goes to a point on the other side, and there is an imaginary point (just coordinates) in the water where they meet. It's very difficult. Ken stated we will need to find out where that point is for mapping. Ken stated he used Google Earth Pro and downloaded all the moorings and found the coordinates for each one. The next step is to transfer that information to a map for Harbor Committee and Town use. We can use the DMR online map as well.

#### Status of Electrical Repairs at Grindle Point Pier

- Earl reported that there is a new electrical box and the wiring in the box is okay. There is one place where the conduit is pulled out below the box. It will need to be fixed from a boat. Scott has moved off island.

#### Maintenance Report on Town Floats, Ramps, Moorings, and Piers

- Earl reported that the outer dinghy dock from the east side of Grindle Point is on the beach for an inspection by PYY. Waiting for report. It needs work or replacement.
- The float at Seal Harbor is being repaired now from damage last fall during the storm. It is getting new hardware, and an improved connecting design for the pins. We may put an additional small mooring or anchor out at the end of that float for the summer.
- Ken said he spoke with Town Manager regarding funding if we need anything replaced. She said there's about \$30,000.
- Earl stated that potentially in the next couple of years, the pier at Seal Harbor needs new steel runners—I-beams—the primary vertical section is starting to get weak. It's okay for now, but we need to keep an eye on it, and keep funds in a reserve account.

#### Discussion of current and proposed Harbor Committee Budget

- Ken referred to the budget report that the Town Manager provided. The Harbor Committee has about \$30,000 left for maintenance and repairs of the Harbor facilities. Earl stated that we will be spending a little of that this spring. Ken is surprised that we haven't spent much of this yet this year. Perhaps some bills haven't been turned in yet. Ken believes the Harbor Committee will not need as much money this coming year.
- Earl stated that some of the budget was for Harbor Master training, but he and Stan have done the basics and are not interested in extra courses at this time.
- Discussion about expenses. Many repairs are done. Earl believes we should keep some money in a contingency fund or capital reserve for future big expenses, such as the Grindle Point Pier and Seal Harbor Pier repairs.
- Ken stated we are halfway through this fiscal year, and have only spent \$13,000 from a \$70,000 budget. It seems we can reduce our budget by at least \$20,000. Earl suggested having some funds moved into capital reserve.

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**Motion: To submit a Harbor Committee budget of \$50,000 for FY 2024, K. Smith, seconded by E. MacKenzie. Roll Call. Motion passed 4 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.**

Dick DeGrasse asked if the budget would include the legal fees for expanding the mooring fields. Earl and Ken answered that that would be done through legislation. The Harbor Committee doesn't have a budget line for attorney's fees. That is done directly through the Town.

Election of Harbor Committee Officers

A. Chair

**Motion to nominate Dylan Purington as Chair, K. Smith, seconded by E. MacKenzie. Roll Call. Motion passed 4 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.**

B. Vice-Chair

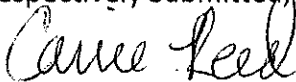
**Motion to nominate Ken Smith as Vice Chair, E. MacKenzie, seconded by D. Purington. Roll Call. Motion passed 4 yes, 0 no, Unanimous.**

C. Secretary

Ken stated he felt no need to nominate a secretary as officer, as the Town secretary is sufficient.

**Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:21 pm by E. MacKenzie, seconded by D. Purington. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed 4 yes, 0 no.**

Respectively Submitted,



Carrie Reed, Secretary