

Islesboro Harbor Committee
Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 20, 2023
In- Person Meeting at 6:30 PM, Town Office

APPROVED
8/24/23

MINUTES

Call the meeting to order and establishment of a Quorum:

Chair Dylan Purington called the meeting to order and a quorum was established at 6:45 pm.

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

Via Zoom: Stan Makara

Members absent: Gabe Pendleton, Gil Rivera, Palmer Sargent

Others Present: Dick DeGrasse

Via Zoom: Robert Giles

Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2023.

Motion: To approve Minutes of February 23, 2023, as written, E. MacKenzie, seconded by K. Smith. 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 update about the Giles' oyster farm in Broad Cove.

- Dick stated that the issue has been resolved. He met with Earl MacKenzie and they agreed upon a new location for the oyster farm. Dick presented the Committee with a chart that Earl created showing the new location, which does not interfere with Dick's mooring or anchoring.
- Earl added that he spoke with Robert Giles. He has submitted the application to the DMR with the new coordinates. The DMR has agreed in principle, but they have to sign off on it. The Giles are awaiting approval, and they've made arrangements for someone to move the farm.
- Dick reiterated that he feels it's important that navigation and maritime activities have equal weight to aquaculture farms, and we have to make sure there is compatibility going forward.

Harbor Master & Deputy Harbor Master Reports

- Earl reported that he and Stan have been in communication with Carrie regarding the BLS courses that need to be current with the Town. They can be done online, so they will take the minimum courses required to abide by the rules.
- At Big Tree, the dinghy floats will be going in soon. The bracket that was damaged in the fall has been repaired and remounted.
- The dinghy floats at Big Tree are about 15-20 years old, and we should start thinking about replacing them. Earl and Josh will look them over when they go in. It would be nice if we don't have to replace them all at once.
- There is also a dinghy float at Grindle Point that needs to be replaced at some point. It's been patched up, and we can probably get one more season out of it. When we replace them, we will try to have them built for a longer life: better fastenings, etc.
- Nothing has changed with the electrical conduit at Grindle Point, which still needs to be fixed. The electrician that was doing it moved. He indicated he would come back to do it, but hasn't.

Status of Big Tree Project

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- Earl reported that the clean-up will probably be next week, using an excavator and the Town truck, that they will load with debris.
- The float that's been on a mooring has been taken off. It needs some work. IME will do the repair and put it back, so it will be there this summer.
- The dock application has been tabled with the Planning Board. Earl doesn't see a reason to initiate any new work on that project, as he thinks the result will be the same, so it's on hold.
- We are being diligent about people swimming, making sure no one swims in the mooring field. It was better last summer. We will continue to educate and hope things keep working well.
- We need to keep an eye on the big steel runners under the dock. They are getting old. Sometime in the next year or two we will need to repair or replace those.
- Earl will be meeting with the new caretakers on Seal Island regarding emergency response and the availability of the Seal Island boat.

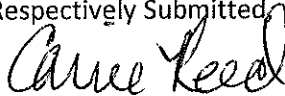
Discussion on status of Giles aqua farm and DeGrasse mooring in relation to that farm.

- This was discussed earlier when Dick DeGrasse addressed the Committee.
- Earl added that he has spoken with a few people involved in these farms, including Kathy, the Harbor Master in Belfast. There's a new kelp farm on this side of Belfast Harbor, put in by the high school. We are going to ask people to put reflective tape on the corner buoys, and some places are requesting yellow buoys for the corners. The LPAs are not required to have lights. They're supposed to be out of the channel. The leases are often in deeper water and do need to have lights. This will become an issue as time goes on.
- Earl stated that there was an application for an aqua farm at 700 Acre Island. Earl wasn't comfortable with the location they requested in terms of navigation, so he did not sign off on that application. It was too close to the channel.
- Earl stated he has also encouraged people to put their names and phone numbers on the corner buoys, so if there's an entanglement, they can be reached.

Other Business

- Dylan stated that Tina wanted to know if the Harbor Committee would like copies of the mooring forms when they come in, and he told her it would be fine for her to keep them.
- Earl stated that the boatyards will take more responsibility under this new plan, and we will have oversight. He has directly spoken with each boatyard about it.
- We will make a real effort at Seal Harbor this summer. Any moorings that are questionable will get rectified.

**Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:00 pm by D. Purington, seconded by E. MacKenzie. No discussion. Roll Call.
Motion passed 4 yes, 0 no.**

Respectively Submitted,

Carrie Reed, Secretary