

Town of Harwich - Waterways Committee
Harwich Fire Station Conference Room or Virtual
Wednesday, October 19, 2022, 6:00pm
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 6:04pm

Board Members Present: Daniel Hall (Chairman), Roger Peterson (member), Daniel Casey (member), Joseph Johnson (member), Kent Drushella (member), Larry Brutti (member) and Richard Shevory (alternate).

Board Members Absent: James Walpole (member), Cameron Smith (alternate)

Others Present: Mark Burgess, Shoreline Consulting, John Rendon (Harbormaster), Heinz Proft (Natural Resources Director),

Documents Used: Foster – 5 Panorama Pt. Drive Waterways Submittal, Harbormaster Dept Sep 2022 Monthly Report, Howard Waterways Submission 10-5-2022, Mooring Revocation Ltrs, Sep 2022 Revenue, Waterways Committee Agenda Oct 19 2022, Waterways Committee minutes August 17 2022.

Minutes: A motion was made by Kent Drushella to approve the minutes from August 17th, 2022. Seconded by Daniel Casey. All members were unanimous.

Consent Agenda: Nothing this month.

Open Forum: Nothing this month.

Financial Report: Monthly report presented by Harbormaster. Visitor dockage at \$53k for September, 2022. Harbormaster pointed out that although it appears they were down from last year, dredge sand was sold last year amounting to around \$120k which does not happen every year. The members discuss parking violations and managing parking lots/landings.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Seasonal Dock – 5 Panorama Point Drive (Foster).

Mark Burgess, Shorefront Consulting, introduces himself to represent Foster/Van Dyke at 5 Panorama Pt. Their current access is on an easement of a neighbor's property. They would like to have a set of access stairs over the bank and a seasonal dock off their own property. The dock would have 6 sections (60ft) to get out and one section to stand on. Mr. Burgess explained they know the elevation of the pond because it is dam controlled and is normally 3 ft. Harbormaster asked where they would plan to store the sections during the off-season and Mr. Burgess explained it would be stored in an area of woods, possibly on a rack, behind a bank. Harbormaster expressed the importance of a plan for storage. Mr. Heinz Proft explained there is no concern of migration of herring or eels, etc. but also emphasized how difficult it will be to remove the dock every season due to how steep the bank is and also

possibly needing to involve Conservation due to removal of trees/shrubs to gain access. Mr. Burgess explained that they hope to have it in between the two trees but they do have some flexibility with location because the restriction is only 15 ft for fresh water.

Joe Johnson moved to accept the Foster/Van Dyke access plan. Seconded by Dan Casey. All members were unanimous. Motion passes.

2. Proposed Changes to Float – 7 Nons Road (Howard)

Mark Burgess, Shorefront Consulting, presents. The dock is an existing, fully permitted and licensed dock. It is a 12x12 float. Mr. Burgess explains that the issue is hauling it because not everyone can do it, it requires a special permit. They currently store it at Allen Harbor but do not want to do that anymore. They would like to change the size to 10x16 so that it will fit on a flatbed and be more easily transported. They have an e-mail confirmation from the neighbors granting permission for the new dock to extend 4 ft. onto their property, and the Howards are only seeking 2 ft. They're also proposing two permanent support piles instead of the existing pipes. The members discuss location of the piles and Mr. Burgess agrees to have them on the back of the float so they're not sticking out when it's not there. Harbormaster points out the importance of having the letter from the neighbor, granting permission, on file and also asks for clarification on how far over the line the float would be. Mr. Burgess explains it would only extend by 2 ft., that the location is not changing at all. The size is just changing from 12x12 to 10x16. They collectively agree that nothing will be affected regarding the permit/license as the float and supports are the only things being changed, and the float will still be under the 200 sq.ft. limit. The members discuss the importance of the permanent piles being on the inside as it's already a tight space and eventually agree to revisit this item next meeting with the revised plan.

Roger Peterson moves to continue until the next meeting on 11/16/2022, pending a revised plan. Seconded by Larry Brutti. All members were unanimous. Motion passes.

OLD BUSINESS: None this month.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Board of Selectmen

Harbormaster – provided by email in agenda packet

Natural Resource Officer points out that Natural Resources does an annual report, not monthly but does highlight the completed improvements on the connection between Long Pond and Black Pond. He also informs the group that the herring are still in Seymour pond, the water level needs to be higher in order for them to move out. Ideally they will end up in the ocean but could also survive the winter in a pond. His final comment is on the declining number of herring – 292k for 2022 (400k in 2021 and 800k in 2020). They have the ability to get a plan approved by Atlantic fisheries to limit the harvest in Spring 2023. Profit recommends getting the ball rolling with that approval to hold off on actually limiting the harvest until Spring 2024, to see what happens. The

members discuss past occurrences of closing herring harvest and also the science of herring migration.

CORRESPONDANCE:

Mooring Revocation Letters – If people aren't using their moorings they lose the mooring.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday November 16, 2022

ADJOURNMENT:

Joe Johnson moved to adjourn, seconded by Roger Peterson. All members unanimous. Meeting adjourned 6:56 P.M.

Minutes Recorded by: Erin Collins

Authorized Posting Officer:

Posted by: Daniel Hall, Waterways Committee Chairman

Signed Date: *Approved 11/16/22*

D Hall

Posting Date: *11/24/23*