

Town of Tisbury
Harbor Management Committee
Meeting Minutes 3/18/2018

Committee Members Present: Jerry Goodale, Matt Hobart, Micheal Baptist, John Packer, Jeff Canha, Beka Eildeiry.

Harbor Master: John Crocker

Others Present: Ray Gale, Lynne Fraker, Melinda Loberg, Gene DeCosta, Kim Baptist, Rick Brown

Meeting Commenced at 5PM

The meeting started with a discussion about the minutes of the February 18 meeting and if there was a quorum. Discussion about what constitutes a quorum for this Committee of 7 and is the quorum lost when a member recuses themselves or abstains. There was no agreed on answer. There was a public request not to approve the minutes until the questions can be answered. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written and the Committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes as written.

Next was a discussion of the March storm and the boats that went up on the beach. It began with talk of the short scope on every mooring in an attempt to pack as many boats as possible into the mooring field. John Crocker spoke of a need to have the entire mooring field resurvey as things have gotten completely "out of wack" over the years. Matt Hobart said if we want to have proper scope for hurricane force winds then we would need to lose half the moorings so as to double the scope which is not realistic. The schooner "Heart's Desire" went up on the beach due to failed mooring chain that hadn't been properly inspected. Last summer JC in an attempt to catch back up with inspections of the town's mooring used a diver to do in water inspections. Such inspections make it difficult to view the chain that is in the ball which is where it failed on "Hearts Desire." The problem is that the town hasn't been able to get any of the local inspectors to do a proper hauling of the mooring tackle to the surface to be inspected. This fact has caused the town to fall behind in its inspection which needs to be rectified ASAP. We as a committed feel that town needs to step up and re-inspect their moorings and stick to the three year inspection schedule. The other town mooring that failed was a conservation mooring that looks like it had been damaged by a propeller. The mooring had been inspected last June and at some point after that it was damaged. JC spoke of two other conservation moorings that last summer where damaged by boat propellers and had to be replaced with chain. The Committee made a motion to recommend the removal of all conservations moorings, both private and town owned, from the inner harbor by June 1st. It was unanimously passed. JC mentioned that we would need to have a public hearing for the selectmen to band conservation moorings in the inner harbor and at this hearing we need to revisit the proposed conservation regulations that we pushed up to the selectmen. After the March storm it has become abundantly clear that there is no place for conservation moorings in the inner harbor and also our proposed regulations are sound, appropriate and need to be adopted! There is substantial proof

for both the need of a short length of top chain on the conservation moorings and the banning of spare buoys both of which were sticking points. Jeff Canha ended the discussion with a reiteration that of the four boats that went up on the beach who where caused by mooring failure, one was caused by negligence on the owners part and the other was caused by pennate failure due to short scope.

John Crocker posed the question of whether it would make sense for the town to maintain winter moorings in the lagoon? The problems with that are ice, in-convince from shore access and the difficulty of getting in and out under the bridge.

The third point of discussion of and update on the Tashmoo landing project. John Packer reported that the rebar was going in and the cement will be poured soon. The dock is finished except where the coffer damn goes through it. The steel has arrived for the additional bulk head. All in all the project has been moving along just fine.

We then spoke about dredging. John Crocker brought a recent survey of the entrance to Tashmoo which clearly showed the dramatic shoaling that has happened in the channel. Unfortunately National Marine Fisheries won't let us dredge that area until the fall. We have the permits but due to the time of year restrictions we have to wait for the fall. Even though we can dredge after the end of June we can't put the dredged material anywhere. JC mentioned that Edgartown Dredge is interested in working for Tisbury and we would like to establish a relationship with them. Also there is a state program to help local municipalities with the cost of dredging but the program is up and running yet. So hopefully by the fall we will have access to that state money. Lynne Fraker mentioned about how this summer we are going to have a dangerous situation with the entrance to Tashmoo. JC reposed with the proposal of putting a large sign at the entrance stating "Shoaling to 3." John Packer had the question of if it would be possible to 'side cast' the dredge material in the channel as a temporary fix for this coming season. It would be a relatively quick and affordable solution.

The next discussion was about the 'big picture' with the infrastructure of the town waterways. The tashmoo landing is being fixed, the tashmoo dredging will happen in the fall, Owen park dock needs to be replaced hopefully we can start doing that in the fall. The harbor also needs extensive dredging. Matt Hobart asked if the Steamship Authority had been approached concerning dredging the east side of their slips were dramatic shoaling has happened. JC Said that he had spoken with the coast guard and informed them about the issue and is under the impression they will press the Steamship Authority (SSA) to dredge. Melinda Loberg reported that the selectmen sent a letter to the SSA as well. JC also put forward that we might want to begin thinking of raising the breakwater. Melinda recommended that we also look into extending the Eastville beach jetty as well. There is plenty of state money available but it will take years to get a project of that scale together.

Taylor Wilson made a public comment to appeal the committee to help him keep his mooring in the Main Harbor from being taken by the Town. He didn't realize he wasn't in compliance and as soon as he did he paid his bill and replaced his pennant. He gave

a heartfelt appeal, but as the issues were not on the agenda the Committee could not comment.

We then made a motion to adjourn and ended the meeting