

Town of Tisbury
Harbor Management Committee
Meeting 4/18/2018

Committee Members Present: Jerry Goodale, Michael Baptist, Jeff Canha and Rebekah Eldeiry,

Absent: Harbor Master, John Crocker

Others Present: Lynne Fraker, Robert Douglas, Melinda Loberg, Nat Benjamin, Gene DeCosta, Kim Baptist, Rick Waldron and Jay Grande, Town Administrator.

Meeting Commenced at 5PM

Introduction was made for Kim Elias who recently joined the Town of Tisbury as their Natural Resources Administrative Assistant. Kim will be providing administrative support and assistance to the Harbor Master and the Shellfish Constable.

First item was to unanimously accept the minutes from the last meeting with amendments..

Next was to discuss points of order. Rebekah Eldeiry requested that when someone wants to talk during discussions that they raise their hand and be acknowledged by the chair in order avoid interruptions from others. The chair will adopt this procedure in future meetings.

Followed was discussion item 4 on the agenda regarding use of private moorings for lease or rent by the Town. The Committee discussed and reviewed a sample lease agreement which was provided by Jay Grande. Jay explained that he had not yet have the opportunity to discuss with the Harbor Master yet but did indicate that the Town was very much indemnified and protected as the onus of responsibility would be on the mooring holder. There was further discussion regarding whether or not it was fair on the part of the private moorings leased to the Town. This subject remains ongoing for future agenda item.

Followed was discussion about the conservation moorings and their condition and whether the Harbor Master should be periodically reporting to the Committee regarding the scheduled inspections of all moorings. The chair concurred that based on prior discussion that all the committee members were all on the same page and in agreement with the removal of all the conservation moorings.

Jeff Canha made a motion for the committee recommend the removal of all elastic town moorings and to be replaced with chain moorings in line with regulation and;

To make a recommendation to have private conservation moorings removed from the inner harbor. There was a second and all voted in agreement unanimously.

The Chair reminded the committee that at the prior meeting it was unanimously agreed to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that all the elastic moorings should be removed from the inner Harbor by June 1st. Jay Grande said that he had not received a request to add as an agenda item to the selectmen's meeting. After further discussion he took this as notice to the Selectman and Harbor Master as a recommendation to implement the removal of all town owned conservation moorings from the inner harbor. Jay Grande said he would place it on the schedule for the next Selectman's meeting. In addition he would also add to the schedule a recommendation for a public hearing to remove and prohibit the use of the conservation moorings from private moorings in the inner harbor. He will ask the Harbor Master to provide further information and a suggested implementation schedule for the Selectman's meeting.

Next followed a discussion regarding the removal of vessels in vulnerable locations in advance of a storm and if the vessel is not removed will it be at their owners risk and not the Towns. It was explained that the Harbor Master makes every effort to alert boat owners in advance of storms and makes inspections of moorings in advance. Natt Benjamin pointed out that there are storm prep services on the island for owners. It was felt that no one should be allowed to winter over if they are not willing to take care of their boat and that the Harbor Master might look at ways in which he can do anything in addition to what he is already doing to alert boat owners. The committee will ask the Harbor Master to write up a policy and bring as an agenda item at a future meeting. It was the Harbor Master who makes the decision as to what moorings can be used for boat owners who have winters leases. There was also discussion regarding the dragging and moving of some moorings during the storms and it was mentioned that the Harbor Master has an agenda item for the committee regarding surveying the placement and realigning for moorings in addition to assessing the need to dredge the whole harbor.

There was discussion regarding Winter Sticks and suggested to identify those who have not removed them by the date stated in the regulations to work with the Harbor Master to ensure they are removed.

Jay Grande reported that he, John Crocker, Tisbury Police had met with the Steamship Authority to assess the need for dredging. The SSA General Manager has agreed to complete a pre-dredge survey on the south side of the slips. There was discussion and Jay Grande will request that the SSA also survey both sides of the SAA slips at the request of the Harbor Management Committee.

Last on the agenda was an update on the Lake Tashmoo landing and dredging. Lynne Fraker said she received a phone call to say that a waiver had been approved to allow three days of dredging with a mechanical dredger. John Crocker will be back at work on Monday and will be able to provide an update upon his return.

Lynn Fraker distributed information about spring loaded pennants for anyone interested in reviewing.

A motion was made to adjourn at 6:15 pm (all were in favor.)

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