

Town of Tisbury
Natural Resource Committee
Minutes – January 8 2020

Attendance: Sally Rizzo, Tom Robinson, David Hearn, James Tilton, Billy Sweeney, John Kollet, Alternate Laura Rose,

Also present: Melina Loberg, John Crocker, Harbormaster, Danielle Ewart, Shellfish Constantable and Kim Elias, Natural Resource Admin Asst., Lynn Fracker and Will White

Call to order at 5:03pm

- 1) **Public Comment** : Lynn Fraker stated that there was a Selectmans meeting on January 7th where they discussed the Annual Rate increase and voted to increase the rate by 7.5% for 2020 and that there was a presentation by the Martha's Vineyard Shipyard. She also said that there was an Open Meeting Law Violation that has not yet been brought to the NRC. With respect to the Owen Park Pier Project she hoped that before the Design comes before the NRC that they allow public input and consider a separate meeting for stakeholders.
- 2) **Minutes of the Novevember 13, 2019 and December 11, 2019** Minutes were reviewed. November 13, 2019 Minutes were approved with correction and December 11, 2019 Minutes were also **approved**.
- 3) **Mission Statement**: Sally presented the Mission Statement. After brief discussion Jamie Tilton made a motion, Billy Sweeney seconded to approve the Mission Statement as written. **All voted to approve. (6)**
- 4) **Owen Park Pier reconstruction** John Crocker gave an overview explaining the serious need of replacing the Owen Park Pier. Last year discovered the pier did not match the state license. He was informed by the State that he would have to reapply for new Licenses and Permits. He received a quote from Packer in the amount of \$913,000 to replace the pier. He is also in the process of receiving additional quotes. He passed around an example of replacing the current structure with a floating concrete pier, similar to that on the one constructed in Menemsha. There was lengthy discussion regarding the pros and cons of using concrete construction rather than the more traditional wooden structure. John will continue to research pier reconstruction and report back to the NRC as a future agenda item.
- 5) **Updates: Harbormaster Report for December**: John Crocker gave a report for the month of December highlighting that the insurance monies have now been received to replace the Harbormaster boat. The Harbor department is

just waiting receipt of the title of the old vessel so that it can be disposed of. He has been in touch with the MDEP in the hopes of using one of their surplus vessels as an interim until a new vessel has been purchased for the Town. Woods Hole Group continue to do extensive work on securing permits for the Harbor Dredge Project. It is expected to wrap all dredge permits together in the permitting process that would include Tashmoo. Part of the cost of the dredge process is to include part of a mitigation process that was not completed last time the harbor channel was dredged. Many Town mooring have now been winter staked, mooring balls have been washed and painted to save wear and tear on the moorings during the winter. Articles have been submitted to the Town which include a request from additional staff member, to be split between the Harbormast and Shellfish Departments. The Embarkation fund will provide \$75,000 towards the Dredge Project and \$2,000 for a new trailer for the harbor skiff. The Department is also looking into the possibility of installing six town moorings in Tashmoo near Northern Pines for rental use. As the town meeting on January 7, 2020 the Selectman voted to approve a 7.5% increase in mooring fees.

- 6) Shellfish Department Update: Danielle reported that December had been a quiet month. Overall it had been a good scallop season with 946 bushels harvested. Over 600 bushels of quohogs were harvested both recreationally and commercially in 2019. Two aquaculture applications were resubmitted and reviewed. They have now been handed over to the Town Administrator together with concerns from the Shellfish and Harbor Department. The next steps will be to go before the Selectmen and then public hearing. Danielle is anticipating that it will happen next month. She has been in touch with a Professor from UNH who finds sources of pollution and she will continue to with UNH and Lagoon Pond Association in that regard. She attended a Massachusetts Shellfish Office Association conference in December and took with her some bay scallops to determine if they had spawned yet or not (or in fact they had come to maturity. There then followed discussion regarding possible State Closures and discussion regarding some anticipated changes to state law that may affect fishing in terms of closures for good.

7) Future Agenda Items:

- Ralph Packer – Wind Farm Terminal Project – Presentation
- MV Shipyard Project
- NRC Asst Position
- Mooring Rates
- Owen Park Pier
- Dredge Project.

There was discussion regarding the MV Shipyard Project and a motion was made by Jamie Tilton and seconded by David Hearn to request a special meeting for the MV Shipyard to make a presentation to the NRC so that they have an opportunity to comment on the project before the Selectmen send a letter of support for the project. There was also a motion to send a letter to

the Selectman asking them not to send a letter until they have had an opportunity to comment. **There was a vote in favor with one abstension.**
(5 -1)

8) Other Business:

Sally distributed a copy and response to an open meeting law complaint to be discussed at the next NRC meeting

Meeting adjourn at 6:40pm.