

Town of Wells Maine  
Harbor Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 28, 2019 5 PM  
Wells Town Hall  
208 Sanford Road

Present: Town Manager Jon Carter, Town Planner/Engineer Mike Livingston, Chairman Mike Caplan, Harbormaster Michael Yorke, Ryan Liberty, Francis Dudley, Assistant Harbor Master Kris Redman, Dave Harrison, Robert Hobbs, Kate Mooney, Meeting Recorder Cinni Davidson

Excused: Selectman Dan Hobbs, Selectman John Howarth, Charlie Bashaw, Scott Worthing

1. Welcome – Mike Caplan

Mike noted the recent passing of Jim Shaw. Jim was a long-time member of the Committee, a Marine Warden and very active at the harbor. Jim and his canine companion Rudder will be missed.

2. Introduction of Wells' New Harbormaster Michael Yorke

Mike has been working hard to get ready for spring. The launch ramps are in.

3. Harbor Update

a. Boat Trailer Parking Lot Survey and Layout Status—Mike L.

Civil Consultants surveyed the existing conditions and laid out a parking lot on the site. Mike revised it to get more trailers in there. There would be 52 spaces paved and striped; without the paving it would be about \$30,000 less. The cost estimate is \$150,000, and a gate and replacement fence would be an additional \$30,000. Mike planned for 12 new spaces near the restaurant. If the lot is paved it would need 3 catch basins with oil/water separators. The best traffic flow seems to be straight in and out the front row and backing in along the water's edge.

Motion by Kate, seconded by Bobby, to grade and stripe it this summer. Passed unanimously.

b. Current SHIP Grant status—main pier rebuild project—Mike L.

The decking is going in after a delay with the materials. The State had to replace more stringers than initially planned for; now they are looking for more money. The railing is \$9,000 and was an addition to the bid.

c. Status of the Pump Out Grant Application—Jon C.

The Selectmen approved and signed the grant. We sent the contract to the equipment provider and are waiting for it to come back with the invoice. Jon expects completion by June 7.

d. Harbor Channel Shoaling Conditions at jetty entrance—results of 3/25/19 meeting

There was a meeting with ACOE, Mike Yorke, Jon Carter and representatives from our 2 senators. Thank you to everyone who attended—it was a great turnout. There are no budgeted funds to bring the Currituck here this year, and no available time on its schedule. ACOE will get the survey boat to survey the channel and check the shoaling problem. Jon and Mike will discuss this with the Selectmen next Tuesday and suggest releasing funds at Town Meeting for a private dredge company to remove the shoal, cost approximately \$200,000. Flashing signs were recommended to warn people. ACOE wants a report on the major storms since the Currituck was here.

e. Grant Ideas—Michael Y.

- 1) For recreational boating: extend the row of docks where people can tie up while they get their trucks. Transients can use them at night for a fee. John Edgerton is preparing the drawings. The pre-grant inspection will be after April 17.
- 2) SHIP Grant for dinghies, commercial and transients along the south side. Mike and John Edgerton are writing the grant application.

Motion by Kate, seconded by Bobby, to authorize Mike to go ahead with these projects. Passed unanimously.

f. HAC list of Projects and Issues for review

-We are looking for volunteers to power wash the docks once the water is turned on.

-Kate noticed a downed wire beyond the gate. Mike will check into it.

-Mike is organizing the Harbormaster office and doing an inventory of stock. Kate will help.

-Some of the solar lights have been installed. Apparently they are not good for night boating. Mike will check the angle so they don't blind people.

-Beach clean up on Saturday, April 27. Sandra at the Police Dept. is with the Blue Ocean Society and is the point person. The Society keeps statistics on the amount and types of trash collected. Two local groups, Wells-Ogunquit Moms and Wells Women, have volunteered to help.

-Mooring fees: Mike has contacted the mooring holders with e-mails. People can pay at Town Hall with cash or plastic. Hard copies of follow-up bills will be mailed tomorrow. Eastern Shore

mooring holders will get their stickers at Town Hall. Stickers will have an M next to the license plate number to indicate a mooring holder. People have to show their mooring invoice, proof of registration and insurance.

~Private moorings: moorings were pulled last fall. Mike is looking for someone to replace them for the season. Bobby will help him identify the mooring holders.

~Children's life jackets: Kris Redman will clean, inspect and reorder.

~Charter boat parking: clients can go to the Eastern Shore lot and pay by the hour, or the charter boats can pick them up on the other side. They can also park at Harbor Park.

~"No wake" signs for the channel coming in. There may be some in the office.

~Eastern Shore fencing or shrubs. Shrubs will be planted as a safety feature.

~All boats should be registered in Wells and pay the excise tax if required.

~A group of people are raising funds to buy a bench at the Harbor in memory of Jim Shaw. It will be located by the flag pole and flower garden.

#### 4. Friends of Wells Harbor Report—Ryan

~BrewFest is scheduled for July 13. 800 people attended last year. Jon directed traffic at the parking lot and our Police Department did a great job. There were no incidents.

~HarborFest will be August 3.

~Woodies in the Cove will be August 10. This year it will be both a regional and national car show.

~Other plans include the students' art project, knot tying station and possibly a Model A antique car show.

#### 5. Shellfish Report—Everett Leach

~The hatchery building is usually ready in April, but this year there is a delay. It should be ready by June.

~There are 2 more dig days, this Saturday and Sunday.

~Paul Demers has applied to do oyster farming in the estuary, keeping his sites away from Erin Gott's. He has an aquaculture business in York and Kittery. He has been working with the Town, State, ACOE, Jon, Mike and Everett to find locations for Southern Maine Sea Farms in Wells. One requirement is for the Chairman of the Clam Commission to sign off that it won't interfere

with other activities. Everett said that the Clam Committee isn't meeting until June and he needs their approval to sign the application as Warden. He is also concerned that the business would interfere with trapping green crabs for predator control. Waiting until June would delay the project by one season. Jon said that Everett should show Paul where he can locate that won't interfere with the others. Chief Putnam said the Harbormaster should map the area where everyone is now, and show Paul where he can locate his traps. Mike Caplan recommended a separate meeting with Mike Yorke, Paul and Everett, and a special meeting of the Clam Commission.

6. Open to the Public

-Mary Harrison asked about July 4<sup>th</sup> at the Harbor. The 4<sup>th</sup> is a Thursday and the holiday celebration could be tied to the Harbor Concert on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

7. Review and acceptance of November 29, 2018 and January 31, 2019 meeting minutes.

Motion by Francis, seconded by Kate, to accept the minutes as written. Passed unanimously.

8. Next Meeting—Thursday, April 25, 2019 5 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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Cinndi Davidson, Meeting Recorder

Accepted by,

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Michael Caplan, Chair