

TOWN OF WELLS, MAINE
HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 21, 2018 5:00 P.M.
Wells Town Hall
Sanford Road

Members Present: Chairman Mike Caplan, Francis Dudley, Charlie Bashaw, Ryan Liberty, Robert Hobbs, Dave Harrison, Frank Parillo, Selectman Dan Hobbs, Harbor Master Chris Mayo, Assistant Harbor Master Kris Redman, Meeting Recorder Cinndi Davidson

Excused: Town Manager Jon Carter, Scott Worthing, Kate Mooney, Selectman John Howarth

1. Minutes: May 3, 2018

The minutes were accepted as written. Passed unanimously.

2. Harbor Master Items

a. SHIP Grant update (redecking and cross-bracing the main pier)

The kick-off meeting was held with MDOT and Wright-Pierce. The bid documents and letters are almost complete. The total construction cost is \$170,000 and we received \$85,000 from the State. By splitting the bid and giving the option of fall or spring construction, contractors can fit it into their schedules and we may get a price break. MDOT recommends a timber frame handrail which will be a bid alternate. Chris is looking into white plastic netting that can be stapled to the timber frame. Chris expects a 6-7 week project (Nov-Dec or April-May).

b. Piling install update

Maritime Construction is servicing the boat launch. The western floats aren't installed yet and all the contractors are busy with repairs from the winter storms. It isn't safe to put the broken docks back, and we would need a diver to find the chains. The tug boat towing the barge with the crane sank. It has been hauled out but still has electrical issues. Chris hopes the piling will be finished in 10 days.

We are currently short 14 spots and 9 floats. The target date for completion is July 4th.

c. Ice machine up and running

The machine is up and running and the commercial and charter fishermen are using it. The cost of the ice is covered by the commercial pier use fee. If there is extra ice perhaps we could sell it to others. The ice is also available to the Fire Department in an emergency.

d. Dredge update—Currituck

The Currituck was here for 14 days. Dredging included part of the sand bar. Chris is waiting for their after action bathymetric survey. He has asked for the Currituck again next year. There are 2 orange balls that mark the sewer line, and one of them goes under at high tide. Chris will talk with the Coast Guard about pulling it higher.

The mooring field needs to be re-engineered. One problem is the conservation easement on the sand bar. The private moorings are working well and people can use the water taxi to reach their boats. Bob said he offers a flat rate contract for the season.

e. Child Lifejacket loaner program

Chris put up signage. There is a deck box with 10 small jackets and 10 larger ones that he got from Amazon at a bulk rate. Chris will stencil them with “Town of Wells Harbor” in case they “walk away”. He keeps his boat stocked with adult and child size vests for emergencies.

f. Welcome Assistant Harbor Master Kris Redman

Kris has been on board for 2 weeks and is a great help. He has worked in the marine industry since graduating from the Landing School.

3. 2018 Boating Season--Mooring field status and private mooring program

Chris is still filling slips and moorings. Some people are waiting for spots when the western dock is complete. 13 private moorings are permitted. Chris has a total

of 18 to give out. He is setting them in place—5 are in now, 2 are going in this week with 2 more to install.

4. DC trip overview/debrief

Chris spent the week working on Capitol Hill and with various federal agencies on behalf of the Ocean Conservancy Group. Discussion topics included ocean planning, dredging, commercial fishing management, climate change and endangered species. He met with NOAA management about the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and getting more funds for ACOE to help small harbors. He also met with the Congressional delegations from Maine and Rhode Island, all 4 Senators and 4 Representatives and their staffs. Topics included dredging, funding, permitting problems, tuna fishing quotas, shifting fisheries and the moratorium on lobster licenses. There have been reports of overboard discharges by the cruise ships, with no enforcement. The cruise ship industry has a powerful lobbying group.

5. Friends of Wells Harbor Report—Ryan

~The student art project will be 3D this year.

~The knot tying station needs a bit more work.

~July 14 BrewFest at Harbor Park: 400 tickets were sold and 35 vendors have signed up. The BrewFest ends at 5 PM and the Harbor Park Concert begins at 6:30. HarborFest is scheduled for July 28-29. There is no Beer & Bean Fest this year.

~Some tuna tails from last year have dried and are ready for painting.

~Wells Reserve is taking the lead on the historic signage project. The money should be released this fall. The signs may not be installed until next spring.

~The striper tournament runs from June 1 to Labor Day. The entrance fee is \$20. People can sign up with Brandy. We are encouraging catch and release, measure the fish, upload a photo and release the fish.

6. Open to the Public—No comments.

7. New Business

~Mike recommended stickers for canoes, kayaks, rafts, etc. People can write their name, cell phone number, etc. If the vessel is found drifting, Chris or the Coast Guard can contact the owner—did it get loose or did someone go overboard? Scott and Brandy use them.

Motion by Francis, seconded by Bob, to get the stickers. Passed unanimously. Chris will get them from the Coast Guard and HAC members will distribute them at the Harbor.

~Piling under the Eastern Shore—Chris will remove it.

~The dumpster in the marina parking lot will be removed.

~Guests on the commercial boats still park in the marina lot. They were given a paper to park there. If the marina lot is full, anyone with a marina sticker can park anywhere in the Eastern Shore lot. Beach stickers don't authorize people to use the marina spots. The police have been ticketing.

~Frank P. and Francis D. have been reappointed by the Selectmen and need to sign up in the Town Clerk's office.

7. **Next Meeting:** Chris and Jon will set the date when Jon returns.

8. **Adjourn: 6:15 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cinndi Davidson, Meeting Recorder

Accepted by,

Michael Caplan, Chair

