

Town of Wells Maine
Harbor Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 27, 2018 5 PM
Wells Town Hall
Sanford Road

Present: Town Manager Jon Carter, Chairman Mike Caplan, Francis Dudley, Ryan Liberty, Scott Worthing, Dave Harrison, Kate Mooney, Selectman Dan Hobbs, Selectman John Howarth, Harbor Master Chris Mayo, Meeting Recorder Cinndi Davidson

Excused: Charlie Bashaw, Frank Parillo, Robert Hobbs, Assistant Harbor Master Kris Redman

1. Welcome & Old Business-Mike Caplan

- ~The ice machine and bait lockers will be winterized. The machine is frost-protected.
- ~The fish coolers are OK, just some minor chipping which Chris will address next spring.
- ~The No Wake signs will be installed next year.
- ~The new commercial dock will be covered by a future SHIP grant.
- ~Webcam repair: The Police and Chris can see it now but it isn't available to the public yet. We are trying to find another way around the server for security.

2. Review and acceptance of August 30, 2018 minutes. Passed unanimously.

3. Harbor Master Items

- a. Maintenance Projects and Eastern Shore parking:
 - tag lines for the moorings
 - remind mooring holders to remove their lines before winter
 - recorner the main docks on the main pier-- the docks might have to be removed for the pier rebuild project
 - have the harbor surveyed and look at the chains
 - Shawn Toohey will drive the pilings on the western float

walk the Eastern Shore and pull any floats that need maintenance
FEMA to repair the Eastern Shore parking eroded area from the storm

- b. Solar lights. Chris installed a solar motion light on the main pier. Big improvement. Even in dim light the cameras can see to the end of the dock. Some people are landing tuna at night. There are 5 more lights to ring the main pier.
- c. Current SHIP grant status (main pier rebuild project) & recent structural pier issue. The bid package for MDOT is being finalized. The main pier needs cross bracing and 2 pilings in one corner to stabilize it. This project can go out to bid once we get MDOT approval, with the work planned for November-May depending on the contractor's schedule.
- d. Safety update-rescues. There have been a large number of dead seals on the beach and at the inner harbor. The concern is that they may carry distemper and avian flu. People and pets shouldn't touch them. Chris has been doing a lot of towing, mostly assistance towing, not emergencies.
- e. State Dredge Quarterly Meeting: October 1 at Canco Road with MDEP, DMR, ACOE and the stakeholders.
- f. Jon gave an update on the trailer parking lot. The Civil Consultants proposal for the survey and layout is in tonight's packets. The Selectmen will review it at their October 2 meeting. The fee of \$5,300 will come from the restaurant lease account. The survey is expected to create more parking spaces.

Motion by Ryan, seconded by Scott, to recommend to the Selectmen that we should proceed with the survey and layout.
Passed unanimously.

Harbor Road had some patching. The repaving project with the State is proceeding slowly. We will solicit proposals for the road design, sidewalk and lighting. The money was awarded in 2015.

Power washing the dock surfaces is planned for next spring before the season.

4. 2018 Boating Season

- a. Private mooring program update. Owners have been asking Chris about the winter protocol. A man in Saco does this work—moorings should be inspected and either pulled out or dropped down for the winter. Ideally, all our owners could be scheduled together for one day in early November. Chris is giving his contact information to the owners. If moorings aren't maintained Chris can impound them. The public moorings have to be out by October 15.
- b. Yearend closing. The boats are being hauled and pumped out. Chris is still waiting for the funds for the new pump out station. The price is \$32,000. One company in Rhode Island is licensed to do the work.

5. Friends of Wells Harbor Report---Ryan

- ~Thank you to Brandy for her hard work with the striper tournament and banquet.
- ~High school art project for next year. If you have any ideas, send them to Jon, Chris or Ryan.
- ~The knot tying station will be stored and finished over the winter.
- ~A catamaran visited the harbor last week. Pictures are on Facebook.

6. Shellfish Report—Everett

70,000 seed clams are out all over the harbor, and the hatchery is closed up for the winter. The flats will open January 1. Licenses go on sale the 4th Tuesday in November. Kate suggested reaching out to the schools to involve students in the project. The seed clams come in around April 15. Students could start with one cage. Once the clams reach a certain size they need the pressure of the sand to keep their shells closed, otherwise they use up a lot of energy and don't grow well.

There was a suggestion to invite Erin Gott for a presentation to the HAC over the winter.

7. Open to the Public

~Private moorings: The mooring holders will have to put them back in the spring or hire the man from Saco to do it. Chris determines the locations of the moorings when they are set for the first time.

~Wells Reserve is following the federal guidelines for dead seals, let “time and tide” take them away. The Public Works Department is burying them in industrial strength bags.

~New herring regulations: The larger boats will have to go south to make their quota, which means more fuel, more trucking fees, catching less fish for less money. The lobstermen will have to pay more for bait or switch to pogies. There has been a lack of juvenile herring but the count is starting to go back up. Herring can spawn twice a year.

8. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 25

Respectfully submitted,

Cinndi Davidson, Meeting Recorder

Accepted by,

Michael Caplan, Chair

“The cure for anything is salt water—sweat, tears or the sea.”

Isak Dinesen