

Marina Advisory Committee Minutes

November 1, 2023

Present: Joe Aberdale-Chair, David Stamatis-Vice-Chair, Kevin Coakley, Frederick Felix, Martha Wilson, Will Barrio, Will Sullivan, Brittany Tilton
Absent: James Gray, Edward Kane, Douglas Straus
Visitor: Ginny Parker, Ryan Curley, John Wolf.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.
Venue: Zoom

Announcements, Open Session and Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

August 30, 2023.

Minutes approved on motion by Kevin and seconded by David. Motion approved unanimously.

Harbormaster Report

Will reported that the new emergency vessel has been delivered. The engine on the old vessel no longer works.

Oysterfest marina parking totaled \$20,000. Plans are being made to remove the docks and power wash them.

The Coast Guard will be coming in to repair some caissons.

Marina Concerns

Kevin learned that \$125,000 is in the state budget for the town to purchase an ice machine. It's unknown who will run the machine and maintain it. The funds can only be used for an ice machine.

Ginny Parker and Ryan Curley gave an overview of the process that was used to secure the funding for the ice machine. Ryan stated that the ice machine can be used by everyone who uses the marina, not just commercial boaters.

Kevin reported that he talked to the shellfish constable about the issue of shellfish grants being too close to the channel and was told that there is not a regulation regarding the issue.

Frederick stated that several boaters expressed their concerns about the issue of transient docking. There is a need for clarification regarding the policy of usage of transient docks as there is nothing in the marina rules and regulations about it. The concern is regarding who gets priority, is there a wait list, etc. Will Sullivan stated that the dock out front with the pump out station can be used for a maximum of thirty days. Transient slips that are open can be used for lunch dockage and for nightly and weekend dockage. There is a fee structure for that dockage. Frederick also stated that some boats that are supposed to be used for short term transient purposes are in those docks for six months. Frederick stated that several boaters have complained to him about people fishing on the docks and problems associated with that issue. The need for signs stating "Boat owners and guests only" was expressed.

Joe stated that several people have expressed to him the desire to extend the boating season. Will Sullivan stated that there is a statute in the Rules and Regulations that states that a boater can ask the harbormaster for special permission to leave a boat in the water after October 15th. Will stated that John and David have requested special permission to leave their boats in the water after October 15th. Joe spoke about most boaters having to abide by the haul out schedule that the boat yards have and they are not always able to have all boats out by October 15th.

Will stated that the issue of extending the boating season needs to be discussed at a future meeting. Frederick stated that he thinks extending the season is a good idea as the rates can possibly be increased and he agreed to meet with Will to discuss the matter further and report back to the Committee. He also stated that boaters want to have an earlier start of the season date.

Joe shared that he learned that the MA Division of Marine Fisheries has funds available to replace marina pump out equipment under the MA Clean Vessel Act Program and asked Will if he will be applying for a grant. Will stated that all components of the pump out system are working and there is no need to submit a grant request.

Dredging Update

Joe stated that he attended a recent Army Corps of Engineers meeting and provided an update. Several questions regarding the various requirements to secure a permit were asked and the Corps was unwilling to make adjustments favorable to the town. John also provided an update .

New Business and Future Concerns

The issue of extending the boating season will be discussed.

The next meeting will be on November 29, 2023, at 7:00pm via Zoom.
A motion to adjourn was made by Frederick and seconded by Martha.
Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joe Aberdale