

**CAMDEN HARBOR COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015
MEETING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Gene McKeever, Ben Ellison, Richard Stetson, Sandy Welte, Ray Williamson, Steve Gold, Drew Lyman and Select Board Liaison Leonard Lookner.

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Willard Wight.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

1. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman McKeever passed on to the committee that he had received a call from Select Board Member Don White concerning a person who was upset concerning a letter from Harbormaster Steve Pixley sent out to all inner harbor float owners asking them to properly identify their float numbers. The harbor ordinance states that the permit site holder is responsible for having their floats identified with their number as do all mooring site holders. Steve Gold addressed the committee on the revenues and expenses of the harbor that he had tallied together without capital improvement. The question of boat excise tax not being part of the harbor revenues was questioned. Chairman McKeever asked him to please send out these figures to the committee. Chairman McKeever introduced new member Drew Lyman to the committee. Ray Williamson suggested that the committee consider shower facilities at the landing for visitors. Ray feels this is something that is much needed and the committee was in agreement. Drew Lyman agrees that this is an issue due to unauthorized visitors using Wayfarer Marine facilities which is an issue at their peak season. McKeever asked Pixley how many other towns have shower facilities and was told the majority of the surrounding towns have these available at a fee. The committee and harbormaster discussed their frustration concerning their recommendations for capital reserve money to be put aside each year for harbor improvements and their feelings of it not being done. Select Board Liaison Leonard Lookner said he will speak with Town Manager Pat Finnigan and Finance Director CarolSue concerning this and report to committee next meeting.

2. **HARBOR ORDINANCE EDITS**

Steve Gold asked if the harbor ordinance current edits that have been done by Kristin Collins is scheduled to be put on the ballot as he said there is discrepancies. After some discussion concerning discrepancies that need to be made to current edit of harbor ordinance, Richard Stetson said that the current edit changes would need to have a Public Hearing. Ben Ellison made a motion that reads:

“The Harbor Committee recommends that the draft Harbor Ordinance Article VI revision submitted to us by the town attorney (file "KMC 08/26/15") not be put on the public ballot. This revision of a revision may contain unintended consequences and confusions. If the Select Board insists on putting its own Harbor Ordinance revision to a vote, we recommend that it first determine exactly what it would like to change in the existing Ordinance and then ask the town attorney to write a fresh revision starting with the existing Ordinance.”

Steve Gold seconded motion. Passed 5-0-0.

3. **APPROVAL OF AUGUST 3RD & AUGUST 10TH MINUTES**

Sandy Welte motioned to approve the August 3rd & August 10th minutes as written. Ray Williamson seconded. Passed 5-0-0.

4. **HARBORMASTER’S REPORT**

Harbormaster Pixley has been removing granite block and stone at Steamboat Landing. Pixley suggested outer harbor private piers that have private residential floats be charged a fee. Inner harbor floats pay a fee to the state, therefore, they should not be required to. The committee agreed with Pixley and will discuss when suggesting changes to harbor ordinance in the future. Pixley reported that the Windjammer Festival was a success and that he hopes to bring the fireworks display closer to the inner harbor next year which will make for a spectacular display.

5. **HARBOR BENCH REQUEST FOR “SUNDERLAND”**

The committee discussed the harbor bench request from Karan Sunderland in memory of her daughter. The committee was concerned about the amount of lettering she was requesting due to space available on the plaque. We will ask if she is willing to shorten phrase, if needed. Ben Ellison suggested that it be stated on the form that spaces and punctuation counts as a letter when the applicant is considering the up to 40 letters as suggested as the amount of letters available for description. Some discussion made on the criteria of strong connection to Camden that is required to qualify for a bench in Camden and if this application meets the requirements. Steve Gold motioned to deny this bench application. No second motion, therefore, he withdrew motion.

Ben Ellison motioned to accept the bench application. Richard Stetson seconded. Passed 4-1-0. (Steve Gold voted not to accept)

6. FISHERMEN HOIST/BOARDWALK

Pixley has met with Prock Marine and Town Manager Finnigan and discussed what needed to be done. Prock Marine will not be doing the end caps, however, due to the cost Pixley and the highway will install.

7. PIERS ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

DISCUSSION IN ITEM #2 .

8. HARBOR RESERVE REVIEW (is there money actually set aside for our projects)

Much discussion on the budget process concerning harbor reserve account. Leonard Lookner will speak with Town Manager Finnigan and CarolSue Greenleaf to get definitive numbers concerning the harbor reserve accounts.

9. FINGER FLOATS FOLLOW UP WITH 2016 REPLACEMENT PLANS

Pixley suggested that the town sell the old floats when removed for lake floats. Steve Gold reminded Pixley that Curtis Island should be considered for some of these floats, also. Ben Ellison motioned that the harbor committee recommends the Town Manager begin the process to have new floats for the marina built as soon as possible. Committee disagreed with motion; therefore, Ben Ellison withdrew motion.

“ Sandy Welte motioned to have the Chairman be tasked with making a written inquiry to the Town Manager as to the status of the project and to underscore the need to have it expedited for installation in the spring. Steve Gold seconded. Passed 5-0-0.”

10. PUBLIC LANDING CLEAN UP AND PLANTS

Lookner discussed the overall look of the harbor and the plantings and said he had suggested a volunteer work day at the landing. McKeever has contacted the Town Manager to request that possibly the Camden Garden Club would maintain the plantings.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m. with the next meeting being scheduled for October 5, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marlene Libby
Harbor Clerk