

CAMDEN HARBOR COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF
November 7, 2013
MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Gene McKeever, Richard Stetson, Ben Ellison, Ray Williamson, Sandy Welte, Steve Gold, Town Manager Pat Finnigan, and Select Board Member Jim Heard.

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack Dennen.

1. NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Ray Williamson asked for an update on committee member Ben Cashen and was told that Ben is responding well to his treatment and has a very positive attitude. Ray Williamson also, inquired about any information concerning the boat "Cimarron" being out of contact with anyone since 6 days ago. No one had any concrete information at this time. Discussion of houseboats was approached upon, however, decided to make an agenda item for December meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 3RD MINUTES:

Sandy Welte requested a revision to the minutes in, Item #1 – Passeri Pier, for the sentence #4 to read ***"Based upon inquiry from counsel for Passeri Sandy Welte raised a concern on the impact the pier would cause to the nearby yacht club mooring used for the sailing program and Harbormaster Pixley stated that if there should be an issue that the Yacht Club mooring could be moved, if needed."***

Ray Williamson requested a revision in the same Item # for the last sentence to read ***"It was asked if this pier affects the Bay Road land used by the Town and Chairman McKeever stated that it does not based on a letter he received from Town Manager Finnigan written by the Town Attorney on September 18, 2013."***

Chairman McKeever motioned to accept the minutes with the revisions requested. Richard Stetson seconded motion. Passed 6-0-0.

3. HARBOMASTER'S REPORT:

Harbormaster Pixley reported that floats at Steamboat Landing has been removed for the winter. Ray Williamson asked how the most eastern library float that docks the "Angelique" when it is in from trips is utilized by the Town and feels that this is an asset to the Town and should be taken advantage of in making available for daysailer berthing. Ray also asked how the docks at the Public Landing have been handled since the ending of the season with boats and daysailers using these docks periodically. Pixley said that this had been discussed previously and it was said that \$15/night for boaters and no fee for daysailers. Ray said he felt that a number of Select Board members do not feel that daysailers are being charged enough seasonally and therefore, a fee should be charged to them during the off season. He said a possible solution could be for them to pay an extended season fee or charge a fee nightly. Chairman McKeever feels it is micro managing the harbormaster and if a Select Board member has a concern with this practice they should bring it before this committee for discussion. Pixley feels that Ray does have a valid point and possibly clarification should be done on charges. Ben Ellison feels the daysailers should

pay a reasonable rate for dockage. It was decided to make this an agenda item for the December meeting.

4. HOIST AT HARBOR:

Pixley told the committee he has given the figures to Brian Hodges for the hoist in order to apply for the grant funds. Town Manager Finnigan stated that the grant has been submitted and is hopeful to receive the funds. It is a 50/50 match. Steve Gold asked if anyone has gotten final report and costs of the Public Landing/River walk concept and Town Manager Finnigan indicated that the Select Board has a public meeting on November 12th @ 6:30 p.m. in the Washington Street Conference Room that will have a presentation of these two items.

5. FINGER FLOAT SYSTEM:

Pixley has removed the finger floats for the season and was actually pleased with the condition of the floats. He suggested the committee discuss a new float system for 2015.

6. BAY ROAD LAND GIFT TO HARBOR:

Many mixed concerns regarding the recent "Passeri" property transaction of the strip of Bay Road land that the Town previously had an easement to and now has ownership of. Some committee members feel that the Town lost rights to the property, however, Town Manager Finnigan stated that the easement was for access only, therefore, no privileges were lost with the transfer. Steve Gold asked if a property transaction can be done by the Town without a Town vote, and Finnigan said that at the Town Meeting in June 2013 the voters voted to authorize the Select Board to accept gifts of property without a Town vote. The Bay Road property is a gift of property; therefore, no vote was needed. Town Manager Finnigan told the committee that she is very appreciative of all the work that the harbor committee does and wanted to say that this particular Select Board would never give up any important property that would be beneficial to the town and its people. Chairman McKeever reminded the committee that the committee is only an advisory committee and they do not have the authority to tell the Town Manager or Select Board how to conduct their business.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m. with the next meeting being scheduled for December 5th @ 7:30 a.m. in the Washington Street Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marlene Libby
Harbor Clerk