

**HARBOR COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF
APRIL 5, 2012**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Gene McKeever, Sandy Welte, Richard Stetson, Ray Williamson, Ben Cashen, and Harbormaster Steve Pixley.

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Willard Wight, Sue Conover, and Windjammer Captain Barry King.

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

1. NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

No Discussion.

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH 1ST MINUTES:

Ray Williamson questioned whether a vote was actually done to approve the budget during the November or December meetings. Chairman McKeever stated that the budget and fees have been recommended and approved by the Select Board until next year.

Sandy Welte motioned to approve the minutes as written. Ben Cashen seconded. Passed 4-0-1 (Ray Williamson abstained)

3. DISCUSSION OF CAMDEN YACHT CLUB PLACING A SAILING PROGRAM DINGHY FLOAT IN SHERMAN'S COVE:

Sue Conover representing the CYC Sailing Program addressed the committee to allow a 16'X26' float be placed in the Sherman's Cove area for use of laser boats for the sailing program. The float would give the program 4 more cradles. Harbormaster Pixley stated that the area is too shallow for any other use and that he was in favor of utilizing this area for the program. Willard Wight stated that it would lessen the congestion in the Inner Harbor, also. Committee Member Sandy Welte encouraged the request and would recommend the committee to support the Harbormaster. After considering the ordinance, the committee found no reason not to encourage the placement of the float.

Richard Stetson made a motion that the committee supports the Harbormaster in the placement of this float in Sherman's Cove to be used for the CYC Sailing Program. Sandy Welte seconded. Passed 5-0.

4. RECOMMENDATION OF WINDJAMMER AGREEMENTS:

Windjammer Captain Barry King of the, Mary Day, addressed the committee concerning the additional CPI fees the windjammers are charged annually in their leases. He does not disagree with the 3% CPI cap that is placed on the fees, however, he does disagree with a CPI being charged if the other harbor user fees are not being increased, also. Ray Williamson also agreed with this. They do not understand why if the harbor is making enough revenue to cover their expenses, and the other user fees do not increase, why the windjammer fees increase each year. They do not have an issue with increasing their fees up to 3% each year if other fees are being increased the same amount. Chairman McKeever said that he was not comfortable making any recommendations on behalf of the windjammers until he knows the history of the lease agreements and the CPI rates. Chairman McKeever would like to meet with the Town Manager to discuss the history of the leases. Discussion will continue at the May meeting. He will also check to be certain that the agreements do not go into default if not signed within the stated 30 day time frame.

5. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT:

Harbormaster Pixley reported that he was refurbishing some of the floats at the head of the harbor. The float system is at least 23 years old with the original life expectancy of 10-15 years. He stated that the floats really need to be replaced, however, did not know if money would be available to do so. He is also, replacing some of the planks on the benches. He read an e-mail to the committee from Mark Habel of the Army Corp of Engineers stating that \$50,000 grant has become available to Camden Harbor to begin the initial stages of a "breakwater study" if interested. The committee was very interested and would like to know what cost to the town would be in the future. Harbormaster Pixley will contact Mr. Habel of the interest in the study and ask about future costs.

6. MEMORIAL BENCHES:

Some discussion on what is the reserve money is being used for. Harbormaster Pixley has been using it to do the maintenance needed on the benches that are paid for only.

7. GANGWAY & FLOAT IMPROVEMENT PLANS:

Harbormaster Pixley updated the committee on the progress of the project. The project needs 55' pilings, which the contractor cannot get due to a shortage of the wood. The wood is not available to anyone at this time and do not know when it will be available. The project may have to be on hold until this November or next spring until the pilings are available. Chairman McKeever thought it would be a good idea to sound the area to see if shorter pilings could be used. The 55' pilings were recommended by Gartley & Dorsky, who Pixley will contact to discuss if sounding the area is needed or if they feel strongly about the pilings they recommended.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m. with the next meeting being on **May 10th** @ 7:30 a.m. in the Washington Street Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marlene Libby, Harbor Clerk