

CAMDEN HARBOR COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF

AUGUST 6, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Gene McKeever, Ben Ellison, Ray Williamson, Richard Stetson, Sandy Welte, Stephen Gold, Harbormaster Steve Pixley, Select Board Member Jim Heard, and Ben Cashen (7:50 a.m.).

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Sid Lindsley

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

1. NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Ben Ellison asked that the waiting lists for sites in the harbor be posted on the Town's website, which the committee agreed should be done. He told the committee that he had been hearing complaints from the public concerning the cleanliness of the public landing bathrooms and no showers available. The committee agrees that no showers are an issue. Stephen Gold mentioned that many of the bigger boats head for Northeast Harbor for the shower usage available there. Ben also, informed the committee of a new AIS site for boaters to register free with at www.marinetraffic.com, which will let you, track other boats around you or to track boaters if they are registered with the site.

Chairman McKeever voiced concerns of hearing that the bigger boats using the town docks may be getting discounted rates and that this would not be acceptable. Harbormaster Pixley assured the committee that this was not the case. McKeever mentioned he attended the July 17th Select Board Workshop and really did not feel it was very useful.

2. APPROVAL OF JULY 9TH MINUTES:

Ben Ellison motioned to accept the minutes as written. Sandy Welte seconded motion. Passed 5-0.

3. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT:

Harbormaster Pixley reported that the pump-out boat was in Bristol getting new motor and steering cables. The State of Maine will be paying 90% of these costs and the Town will only be responsible for the remaining 10%. Pixley is becoming concerned about all the fishing gear being placed inside the mooring field, as it is more than normal amount and how it is affecting the boaters. He commented on a concern of safety giving by Les Bex, of the Betselma, to do with kids swimming off the Yacht Club's docks, as skippers of vessels are not looking out for that type of activity in the harbor. Pixley has spoken to Barb Goos, at the Yacht Club, and she said swimming from the docks is against regulations, however, the hot summer temperatures has probably played a part in this happening. The amount of kayakers are also growing in the harbor and a suggestion was made to possibly have a kayak dock installed when the new floats are being made to accommodate just kayaks. Pixley discussed with the committee a conversation he had with Bob Walther concerning the inner harbor floats and the waiting list associated with them. It was suggested that inner harbor float holders may be willing to relinquish their float so that the next person on the waiting list would be able to have the float and the holder who relinquished the float could be placed at the top of the waiting list if he so chooses to in order to regain a float in the future. This would help the people who may want to relinquish their float (due to non-usage, illness, etc.), however, may feel they would not be able to obtain a float in the future and the people on the waiting list would have a chance to obtain a float. The committee was interested in continuing this discussion at the next meeting. Pixley said the warship "USS Normandy" would be attending the Windjammer Festival in September.

4. MEMORIAL BENCH APPLICATION:

The committee agreed to accept the memorial bench application submitted by Marta Koonz. ***Ben Ellison made a motion to accept the application and Sandy Welte seconded the motion. Passed 5-0.***

5. TOWN DREDGE:

Harbormaster Pixley updated the committee on the meeting with Elaine Neville concerning the permit for the placement of the recycled materials from the dredging project to be discarded at the Oak Hill Cemetery property. She sees no problem with obtaining the permit.

6. GANGWAY & FLOAT IMPROVEMENT PLANS:

Discussion was made on the status of the pilings for the piers. Pixley stated that he had heard that the pilings were enroute to US. The committee suggested that he speak with the contractor who was awarded the bid project, Art Tibbetts, to find out who the supplier of the pilings is and follow up as to the status of the pilings.

7. DISCUSSION OF DOWNTOWN MASTER PLAN:

Stephen Gold asked if the committee has or will be involved with the proposed sidewalk plans for Commercial Street. Chairman McKeever stated that the committee could only make recommendations to Select Board. McKeever advised the committee to read harbor ordinance and to follow what it outlines concerning the committee's duties of town affairs. Select Board Member Jim Heard said that the "comprehensive plan" that is being revamped would include committee involvement and that they are actually looking for committee members for this.

8. PARKING AT PUBLIC LANDING:

Pixley was asked if the harbor office had been monitoring the parking lot as requested at the last meeting. Pixley said that Jim Leo and Jeff Sukeforth have been monitoring and will continue to for him to be able to report back to committee in the fall. He told the committee that Jeff Sukeforth had suggested using the mini parking lot between the bathrooms and Small Wonder Gallery area as permitted parking spaces. The committee thought this was a great idea and Pixley will speak with Town Manager Finnigan to see what steps will need to be taken to go forward with this.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m. with the next meeting being scheduled for September 10th at 7:30 a.m. at the Yacht Club.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marlene Libby
Harbor Clerk