

CAMDEN HARBOR COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Gene McKeever, Ben Ellison, Ray Williamson, Ben Cashen, Richard Stetson, Harbormaster Steve Pixley and Town Manager Patricia Finnigan.

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Howland (Wayfarer Marine)

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

1. NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

The committee welcomed new Town Manager Patricia Finnigan to the meeting and look forward to working with her in the future. Chairman McKeever thanked the committee for their work in presenting the “harbor improvements” recommendations to the Select Board. The Select Board approved the recommendations.

2. INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, BRIAN HODGES, CONCERNING FAIR MARKET PRICES OF HARBOR FEES:

Brian Hodges was unable to attend meeting. Susan Howland of Wayfarer Marine addressed the committee with her concerns with Camden harbor dockage becoming a competitor with the private businesses on the harbor, primarily with the vessels over 60 feet. The rates at the public landing for over 60 foot vessels are much less than what Wayfarer Marine charges at their docks. The services available to vessels between the town docks and Wayfarer Marine can vary considerably, however, the majority of the time these vessels do not have a need to use any of Wayfarer Marine’s services extended to visitors. The committee does not feel that the town should be taking away from the private sector and feel that they all have the same goal in utilizing the harbor for the residents, visitors and area businesses. Susan Howland asked what the committee’s definition of what the “spirit” of the town docks is. Basically, Ray Williamson said the “spirit” of the harbor is an access point for the private and commercial sector to use for a variety of reasons. Susan Howland also, asked if there was a certain designated space for boats coming in for a few hours and Harbormaster Pixley said that there was an area for this. It was decided that for the next meeting Susan would make available the fees that other marinas use for dockage and Harbormaster Pixley would compile a list of dockage fees from area public landings to compare. Chairman McKeever mentioned to the committee the possibility of setting aside money for installation of showers at the landing and having a discussion with the departments, that it would involve.

3. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 1ST MINUTES:

Ben Ellison motioned to accept minutes as written and Ray Williamson seconded motion. Passed 5-0.

4. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT:

Harbormaster Pixley reported there are still boats using the docks. He has replaced roller system on steamboat landing. He will be checking the hull thickness on the "Welcome" at the suggestion of Chairman McKeever. He discussed with the committee a letter he has sent out to an unpermitted-fisherman using the fishermen docks and this causing an issue with the permitted fishermen. He has told the person they can no longer use the docks, however, he will try to accommodate in another area, if possible.

5. UPDATE ON SHORT TERM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

The committee had some discussion on the dredging and piling project. Susan Howland asked if it was possible for Wayfarer Marine to collaborate with town to do dredging that they need to have done. The committee welcomes them to participate with them and Harbormaster Pixley will make Susan aware of meetings in the future with Gary Neville concerning the dredging. The committee thanked Susan for attending and for her input during the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m. with the next meeting scheduled for **November 3, 2011 at 7:30 a.m.** in the Washington Street Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marlene Libby
Harbor Clerk