

Camden Harbor Committee

August 1, 2016

Minutes

Members Present: Gene McKeever, Stephen Gold, Richard Stetson, Sandy Welte, Ray Williams

Members Absent: Ben Ellison, Drew Lyman

Select Board Liaison: Leonard Lookner

Staff: Harbor Master Steve Pixley, Town Manager Pat Finnigan

Public: Ramiro de Acevedo Ramos, Aaron Lincoln

1. Call to order

Chair Gene McKeever called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

2. Daysailer Agreement Changes

The Committee continued its discussion of a proposed change to the Daysailer Agreement requirements. The proposal would allow current licensed Daysailers to sell tickets from their existing ticket tables for trips aboard another commercial passenger vessel operating out of Camden Harbor. The proposed change would be limited to vessels which meet USCG criteria as an uninspected passenger vessel.

This proposal was first considered by the Committee at its May 19 meeting. The Harbor Committee Chair had prepared a letter recommending the change to the Select Board and the Harbor Master had drafted an amendment to the Daysailer Agreement for the Committee to review.

During their review of the amendment, Harbor Committee members discussed the purpose of the proposal and how it would work if approved. The Chair said this could be positive for the harbor since it would enhance opportunities to enjoy Camden harbor.

The Committee discussed the need to make sure there was a level playing field. The Committee discussed whether all licensed Daysailers should be allowed to do this, or whether it should be considered on a case-by-case basis. There was discussion that this should be a "go slow" approach and perhaps do it on a trial basis.

They agreed that the proposed change would apply to the 2017 season.

The Committee discussed the criteria for approval. There was discussion about whether the applicant should own the second vessel or if the applicant could be the agent of the vessel's owner. There was also concern that they need to show proof of adequate insurance.

The Committee agreed that the minimum criteria needed to be that the vessel be "appropriately licensed and insured, and meet all Coast Guard requirements."

Sandy Welte said "operational control" was the key factor and permission should be linked to the current Daysailer license.

Steve Gold suggested doing a matrix of what the Committee wanted or didn't want for requirements.

Chair McKeever asked the Harbor Master if the Committee had given him sufficient information to redraft the policy and bring it back to the Committee at the next meeting. Harbor Master Pixley said he understood the Committee's direction. The Harbor Master was asked to circulate the new draft to the Committee before the next meeting.

3. Approval of the July 11, 2016 Minutes.

Steve Gold made a motion to approve the Minutes; the motion was seconded by Sandy Welte. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Harbor Master Report

Harbor Master Pixley reported that he had finished assigning moorings and floats. He said the harbor was getting busier and we are hosting larger boats.

In response to Chair McKeever's question about demand for moorings, Mr. Pixley said that it's been slow and other harbors have reported having the same experience. They believe people are still feeling the effects of the economy.

The Harbor Master reported that he has had to warn launch drivers who are traveling too fast. He said that excessive speed was the issue that most people complained about in the survey conducted last spring, so he was trying to address that.

The Committee discussed the idea of installing dinghy and kayak racks at Laite beach and perhaps on a float off the head of the harbor.

Leonard Lookner asked the Harbor Master to consider installing a courtesy marker in the ledge area. Some moorings are very close to it and this would assist people who are not familiar with the area.

5. Fishermen's Hoist

The Harbor Master said that he had instructed 4 fishermen in the use of the fishermen's hoist and things were going well. Sandy Welte suggested that now that the fishermen's hoist has been installed and is functional, that item could be removed from future agendas. All agreed.

6. Breakwater

Harbormaster Pixley said that the Army Corps of Engineers has completed its initial work and wants to know if the Town wants them to continue with their work.

Chair McKeever said the Committee needs to know what the costs will be and what the Harbor Committee's involvement should be, and what is the Army Corps' timeframe? The Committee discussed the importance of understanding the cost-benefits of such a project. They agreed the topic should be the sole topic of a future special meeting of the Harbor Committee. The Town Manager said she would provide information that the Army Corps has provided to the Town.

7. Cruise ship fees

Due to the time, the Chair said this would be kept on the agenda and discussed at a future meeting.

8. Next Meeting

Due to Labor Day holiday, the Committee agreed to hold its next meeting on September 12.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:00a.m.