

**FALMOUTH HARBOR/WATERFRONT COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 15, 2015 8:00 AM
FALMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Roll call:

Present: Peter Thornton, Richard Garrett, Emmanuel Kourinos, William Oliver, Richard Craven, Kenneth Walberg, Alan Twombly, Kimmerly Maxfield-Fearon, Claudia King and Brent Sullivan

Absent: Paul Dobbins

I Chairperson Comments

Introduction of Claudia King, town council liaison.

Watched the J-24 North American Regatta and it was a major event and really enjoyed it.

He feels that things went smoothly this summer at the landing and that we are fortunate that the hurricane didn't hit.

II Approve the Minutes of the May 21, 2015 Minutes.

Manny wanted to amend the minutes to indicate that on the issue of the additional rental moorings of Handy Boat – he was neutral on the subject.

With this change, Bill Oliver made a motion to approve the minutes, Richard Craven seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III Public Comment

None

Richard Garrett commented on the fact that the committee is lacking a member and that Brent Sullivan has been asked to attend and represent Handy Boat.

IV Harbormaster Report

Moorings: 1118 up about 15 from last year

Wait list:

Resident	40
Non-resident	10

Dinghy permits

Resident	60 (all of the resident)
Non-resident	25 (all but 5 of the non-resident)

Floats

The town has applied for a SHIP grant to replace the commercial floats next year and hope to apply for a second SHIP grant to replace the pump out floats, older floats on the dinghy dock side and three new ramps. The State of Maine's estimate for the commercial floats is \$110,000 with a 50 percent match by the town. This would be enough to replace all of the older floats and ramps. The Town Council has already approved the \$55,000 match.

If the grant is approved, we can use the money as we see fit. The town council approved the \$55,000 town match.

Boat Grant

We have been awarded \$220,500 from Homeland Security to purchase a new boat. The Town Council has approved the \$100,000 match to \$327,000 boat. We have also received an estimate to sell the current boat for between \$40,000 and \$70,000. That would off-set the town's contribution to the purchase of the boat.

Richard Craven asked about the turnover on the mooring wait list. Harbormaster Twombly said that the turn over was down this year. The average has been about 20 people a year off the list, this year there were only 15 taken off. Richard also asked about the dinghy permits. There are 25 nonresident left, would a resident be able to buy a non-resident permit at the resident fee or would they have to pay the non-resident fee? Harbormaster Twombly said that if a resident approached him, he would most likely sell it for the resident rate.

Peter Thornton asked if we had thought of asking Long Island if they wanted to buy the boat. He was told they cannot afford it.

Claudia King asked who provides emergency services to Long Island. She was told that they have their own fire / rescue boat. They also have a harbormaster boat. The services we provide are to transport paramedics if they need one, if we are working we will transport a paramedic out for them. But only if someone who can run the boat is working.

Richard Garrett asked why when there is an event at Long Island, we bring fire trucks along with the rescue unit. Harbormaster said that it's probably mostly for the manpower, to help move patients.

Richard Garrett also commented on the wait list, there are 40 residents and 10 nonresidents on the wait list. A resident will take precedence over a nonresident and be able to bump them.

V. Agenda Items

- B. Increase the mooring fee by \$1.00 for 2017 because of online mooring fee increase

This increase request is due to an increase in the on-line mooring service costs. Richard Garrett made a motion to increase the fee, Richard Craven seconded it. It was voted unanimously to approve the increase.

- A. Discuss dinghy size, type and motor limitations for Town Landing dinghy dock

There have been some public safety issues with dinghy at the docks. A resident wanted an ordinance to have a minimum line length and also to have to keep motors down. People are tying too short a line and it jams up the dinghies and is a safety hazard. The request to require motors down isn't so much a safety issue, but keeping them up damages the inflatables. Over the past few years, since allowing motors, people have gone from the hard sided dinghies to the inflatables because they're cheaper and more stable. They don't row well, so they require motors and they are taking up too much room. The harbormaster showed a photo of the dinghy dock with approx. 40 dinghies on it. It was very crowded. The dock can hold only about 60 and there are 90 dinghy permits sold. There are a couple options to help with this problem.

- a) Do away with inflatables
- b) Do away with motors and if you did away with motors, it would do away with the inflatables as well.
- c) Manny Kourinos suggested an option of adding a float system with finger piers heading towards the parking lot.

Brent Sullivan of Handy Boat Service was asked what they did about the inflatables / motors. He said that he has staff go lower motors and by August people got the idea to leave the motors down. He agrees that the inflatables take up much more room. Part of the problem is the size of the engines, starting with limiting engine size would be a good start.

Richard Garrett reiterated his past stand having suggested to the Town Council that they ban all dinghies from the Town Landing and have the town provide them. The town has provided 5 dinghies. He would like to see all public (with the exception of commercial) dinghies from the Town Landing and have the town provide 10 dinghies for public use.

William Oliver pointed out that by banning dinghies the town would need to provide a way to access boats and suggested a launch service. Richard Garrett said that would be cost prohibitive.

There was discussion on all of the suggestions.

Assistant Harbormaster Ken Walberg expressed his concerns about people trying to go to the furthest edges of the mooring field, and that the boats with the motors are a convenience. He agrees that the crowded space is a safety issue, but feels that it would be poorly received by the public that after allowing the motors, turning around and taking that convenience away. He feels that they have to come up with a happy medium of what's best for the public and the town.

Harbormaster Twombly suggested a compromise of allowing motors but banning inflatables, freeing up that room on the docks.

Assistant Harbormaster Walberg pointed out that this was not an issue until inflatables were allowed.

Claudia King suggested 2 town inflatables.

The Harbormaster said that it would be a huge liability to the town.

It was decided to table the issue for the future and, for the upcoming season, add info to the dinghy permit applications covering the safety issues and requesting that the dinghies have minimum of 12' line and the motors down. And then monitor it to see how it affects the situation.

Manny Kourinos asked about the time line on the replacement of the floats, the Harbormaster said that if the grant is obtained, all the floats would be replaced at the same time. He also spoke up again about the finger piers.

There was discussion of the design of the new floats, and the winter storage issues of additional finger floats.

Claudia King will be reporting to the Town Council that the dinghy program is successful and that discussion has begun about the safety ramifications of the additional dinghies.

He likes the float idea, but he feels that it needs a great deal of work designing them to make them usable.

Assistant Harbormaster suggested reducing the number of dinghy permits.

The issue was tabled for further discussion.

VI New Business

Harbormaster Twombly brought up the issue of the kids in the sailing program being all over the place. It was suggested building a float at the edge of the anchorage where they could leave the boats and the kids wouldn't be in and out of the anchorage. William Oliver will research the issue and get back to the committee.

Elections:

Richard Craven nominated Richard Garrett for chairperson, Manny Kourinos seconded it and Richard Garrett was elected unanimously as chairperson of the committee. It was decided vice chairperson and secretary are not necessary.

VII Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for May 19, 2016 at 8:00 at the Falmouth Police Department.

Manny Kourinos made a motion to adjourn, William Oliver seconded approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48.

Respectfully submitted by Kimmerly Maxfield-Fearon on January 27, 2016.