

Falmouth Harbor/Waterfront Committee
October 18, 2018 8:00 AM
Falmouth Town Hall

Roll Call

Present: Richard Garrett, Richard Craven, William Oliver, Emanuel Kourinos, Peter Dion, Al Twombly, John Kilbride, Edward Tolan, Ryann Philbrook

Members of the public present: Charlie Whittier

I Chairperson's Comments

Chief Tolan and Lieutenant John Kilbride asked to provide comments.

Chief Tolan comments: Ryann Philbrook is our new Office Administrator. This will be the last meeting for the Chief, retiring December 14. John Kilbride will be the new Chief.

Chairperson comment: Have worked with Chief Tolan for 20 years and have achieved a lot in that time - the Town Landing facilities have received new piers, new floats and new launching ramps. It's been a great committee and we thank Chief Tolan for his service.

Lt. Kilbride comments: These past several months have been challenging dealing with the damage that we received and getting the floats in and getting the gangways installed in a timely manner. They are much bigger and more complicated to get out than the floats in the past, so we are looking at a company to help us with the transition.

We have had three dead baby seals wash up within the vicinity of Town Landing, on private and public property. No one was sure what to do with them and they started to decompose and become a threat, not to humans, but to dogs and cats who come in contact with them. We have coordinated with Marine Mammals of Maine, Mark King from Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), and our Public Works Department to devise a plan if we receive reports of seal carcasses on the shores. We have established a process to place a call to dispatch and they will contact Marine Mammals of Maine who will send out a rep along with MDEP to evaluate the seal. We will then coordinate with our Public Works Department to remove the carcass and haul it to the compost pile at the transfer station. The carcass will be placed in the middle of the compost pile where it will decompose in about eight days. Currently there are about 800 dead seals that have washed up on the shores of Maine and they anticipate more, given the fact that the seals are going through some form of transition which exposes the seals to a virus, so we could see more wash up on our shores. Initially when the seals washed ashore, there was some confusion on who was responsible for taking care of these and some frustration, but we now have a process in place.

II Approve Minutes of May 16, 2018 meeting

Richard Craven made a motion to approve the minutes, Richard Garrett seconded it. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III Public Comment

Charles Whittier, Falmouth resident and boat owner.

IV Harbormaster Report

We had 13 more moorings than we had last year. We had 1137 for this year. Wait list is holding steady at 34, so no change from last year. Non-residents have gone down two. The floats have all been installed. The public was very cooperative and the process went a lot smoother than anticipated. The pump-out was not installed due to logistics. It will get installed next spring.

Chief Tolan: Chief Rice did a great job coordinating everything with FEMA and all our paperwork has been submitted to them. Manny asked how much money FEMA was reimbursing us for the damage incurred. At this time, no info has been received from FEMA regarding reimbursement funds. We are incorporating a grant which was \$54,000 and insurance coverage was close to \$100,000. We anticipate these will play a factor in how much is reimbursed.

Richard: Appreciated the level of communication coming from the Harbormaster during this process.

Harbormaster: We will haul the floats on November 1st. We have hired Chase Excavating to haul the floats all at once. We are going to do things a little different this year and stack them, color coded and numbered, so that we know exactly where they go. The only float that will be out and exposed is the one that they are going to put the pump-out on. The new pump-out system has been delivered to the Police garage. We purchased it on a grant for about \$14,000 and it's all-inclusive to one unit. A question was asked what people this year did while the pump-out was down. Harbormaster responded that people used other options. It was mentioned that Casco Bay Keepers comes right out to the boats, which is something to keep in mind if this happens again in the future.

V AGENDA ITEM

A. Update on the new floats

This was discussed during the Harbormaster report.

B. New Business

- **Air B & B's:** Bill Oliver asked if there has been any discussion on Air B & B's? Chief Tolan answered that he went to the Town Manager and the manager brought it to the Council to put on the agenda. Since we're not getting much attraction for this in Falmouth, the Town Council has put it on hold. A question was asked if the ordinance in any way addresses short-term rentals? Chief Tolan stated they would have to amend the ordinance. For the time being, it was recommended by the Town Manager to place this discussion on hold. Richard Craven thought we were going to wait and see how other towns handled it.

Al Twombly and Frank Soule went to the Harbormasters Meeting in March and the attorney suggested writing a clause in the permit that states "this permit is not intended for rental use". So, if they are renting after signing the permit agreement, it gives the Town the ability to pull the permit if they do not comply. We will revisit Air B & B's in the spring or next fall.

- **Erosion issues caused by testing motors:** having issues with people testing their motors in the water and this is causing major erosion issues at the end of the ramp. This has undermined the work that Public Works had done. A recommendation was made by Chief Tolan to speak with the person(s) and make them aware they are damaging town property and if costs are incurred to repair these damages, the Town may send them a bill. A motion was made to support the Harbormaster in communicating with the individual(s) verbally and then in writing, if needed. Unanimous support from the committee.

C. Election of Officers

Nominations for Chairperson. Richard Craven nominated Ritchie Garrett to continue as chairperson; Bill Oliver seconds the nomination. All in favor.

VI Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for April 25, 2019 at 8:00 AM at the Town Hall.

VII Adjourn

Richard Garrett made a motion to adjourn and Emanuel Kourinos seconded it. The committee voted unanimously to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 AM.

Respectfully submitted on January 17, 2019 by Ryann Philbrook.