

**Harbor Waterfront Committee Meeting
March 23, 2017 8:00 AM
Falmouth Police Department**

Roll Call

Present: Paul Dobbins, Brent Sullivan, Emanuel Kourinos, Richard Garrett, William Oliver, Richard Craven, Steve DeCrosta

Chief Edward Tolan, Town Councilor Adam Sverdlow, Harbormaster Alan Twombly, Kim Maxfield-Fearon

Members of the public: 14

I Chairperson's Comments

Richard Garrett reminded everyone that Roberts Rules of order are loosely followed.

II Approve minutes of the October 20, 2016 meeting

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

III Public Comment

John Winslow – Gray Road

Questioned why the fees for commercial entities are not higher. He presented documentation of fees from other towns with anchorages whose rates for commercial are higher than those for recreational use. He gave copies of his information to the Harbormaster.

David Gooch – Johnson Road

He wanted to be assured that the fees associated with the anchorage go to support the anchorage and do not support the rest of the Town of Falmouth departments.

Joe Furlong –

He suggested that the penalties for parking at the Town Landing without a sticker are not severe enough. He suggested raising the fine of the parking tickets from \$15.00 to \$50.00 and suggested more aggressive enforcement.

Barbara Bonnvie Smith – Longwoods Road

She agreed with the prior comment about the parking.

Marty Bruno – Longwoods Road

He also commented on the low ticket fines. He also wanted to know if the ratio of resident / non-resident dingy permits was consistent with the ratio of resident / non-resident mooring permits.

Craig Baranowski – Halls Hill Road

He was concerned that the reduction of dingy permits would pose a problem with boats that are potentially too large to return a dinghy to the float.

Gerhardt Gross –Buxton, ME

He wanted to suggest that if the numbers of moorings have increased, could the length of the piers be also increased.

Barbara Bonnvie Smith –

She suggested a launch service

Bill Sipperly – Middle Road

Mr. Sipperly was concerned about the increased fees, and less access.

Rick Fleming – Lee, NH

He also was concerned about the decreasing of access to the harbor. He also supported the idea of extending the floats.

II Chairperson's comments

He told the members of the public who spoke that their issues would be addressed and they would be contacted. He also said that should the town need to do so, more dinghies can be purchased to make up for the lower number of personal dinghies that would be on the float. He also urged people to attend the Town Council meeting on 3/27/17 at 7:00 PM to express their concerns.

IV Harbormaster's Report

No report – just the meeting agenda

V Agenda Items

Proposed reduction of the number of resident dingy permits issued from 60 to 40 and non-resident dinghy permits issued from 30 to 20

Proposed increase in the dinghy permit fees for resident from \$50 to \$100 and non-residents from \$100 to \$200

The Committee discussed their reasons for recommending to the Town Council a reduction of number of dinghy permits issued for Town Landing and to raise the fees for the permits.

William Oliver made a motion and Paul Dobbins second a vote was taken to stick with their original request: Reduce the number of resident dinghy permits from 60 to 40 and non-resident dinghy permits issued from 30 to 20. 6 yes, 1 abstain (Brent Sullivan as he was not part of the original discussion)

Aaron Svedlow (Council liaison) interjected with comments regarding the Town Council's not addressing this issue at the prior meeting as they felt that more public

comment was required. He feels that was met at this meeting. He asked for a summary of the questions from the public and how they would be addressed, for the meeting on 3/27/17.

There was also a request for notification of meetings as people feel they are not informed about upcoming meetings. The Harbormaster offered to send e-mail to all mooring holders notifying them about the Harbor Committee meetings.

Limiting recreational fishing from the pier and floats

The Committee explained their reasons for attempting to limit the recreational fishing at Town Landing.

Rich Baer – Falmouth

He wanted to know what the safety issue was causing the requested change. He feels that since the Landing is a public resource, it should be unlimited.

The harbormaster explained that there incidents of squid ink all over boats (including the police boat), of people not getting out of the way of boats and injuries caused to people fishing during the day it can be monitored, but at night there is no one working.

Chief Tolan announced that this will not be on the agenda for March 27, but will be presented at a later date. He also re-affirmed that the funding from the fees for moorings and dinghies is set aside for harbor/boat maintenance. He agreed that parking is a real problem. The rangers write tickets, but the only way to successfully enforce payment is a scofflaw. The police department sends out notices for payment. People have suggested taking people to court, but the courts are too busy to deal with parking tickets. He also said that they are looking at re-configuring the floats.

A vote was taken to recommend to the Town Council limit recreational fishing to: Sunrise to sunset fishing would be allowed on all floats, sunset to sunrise fishing would only be allowed on the commercial float. 6 yes, 1 abstain (Brent Sullivan as he was not part of the original discussion)

VI Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Falmouth Harbor/Waterfront Committee is scheduled for October 19, 2017.

Adjourn

Richard Garrett made a motion to adjourn, William Oliver seconded, the committee voted unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted on March 29, 2017 by Kimmerly Maxfield-Fearon.