



# Town of Falmouth, Maine

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Nathan Poore, Town Manager  
FR: Officer Al Twombly  
RE: Dinghy issues  
DA: March 23, 2017

This memo follows up on items discussed at the Town Council meeting on March 13. At the meeting, the primary concern was the condition of dinghies owned and maintained by the town.

Our dinghies receive heavy use and are often damaged by a variety of causes. As you can imagine, some people take better care of them than others. The department works hard to be proactive about dinghy maintenance and care. Some of the challenges we have encountered include:

- Broken Oars – When oars are left in the oarlocks after a dinghy is returned, the dinghies bang together and break. Last summer, we reverted to wooden oars and attached them to the dinghies in a different way.
- Broken Oar Sockets – Another result of leaving oars in the oarlocks leads to broken sockets. Last spring, we replaced the wood with metal sockets and unfortunately, those also broke. We are currently working on a new solution with our welder at Public Works. If the new solution is able to withstand greater stress, we retrofit all dinghies with the new socket system.
- Dinghy Cleanliness – The Rangers clean the dinghies as needed. Keeping them clean in a maritime environment is always a challenge and the white color of the boat enhances the dirt and grimy appearance. Based on the citizen comments at the meeting, we will commit to paying close attention to this issue during the upcoming season.

We currently have five town dinghies. If the Town Council reduces the number of dinghy permits to 60, we suggest increasing the fleet to six or seven. During peak season, there is an average of 70 dinghies on the float. The increase of one or two dinghies should be sufficient to meet the needs of our harbor patrons.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me if you have additional questions.