

# Minutes

**Public Facilities Committee  
Gloucester High School Guidance Department Conference Room  
Leslie O. Johnson Rd. Gloucester, MA 01930  
October 15, 2013**

**Present:** Patti Page, Bob Gillis, Vito Calomo, Cate Banks and Jim Caulkett

**Also present:** Mark Lacey, Jim Bordinaro, Kristin Wood, Don King and Tony Gross

Chairperson Banks opened the meeting at 6:00 P.M.

A quorum of the Waterways Board was present and items were taken out of order to accommodate Ms. Wood

**Item Two: Diamond Cove mooring permits and wait list** Ms Wood gave a summary of her experience of presenting herself at the Harbormaster's office in June of 2013 in order to be placed on the waiting list for the Diamond Cove mooring area. She reported to the Committee that there had been no one on the list at that time and she then would have been the only one on the list. When her name did not appear on the list by a month later she returned to the office, with her copy of her application time stamped June 21, 2013 and sat while Shirley Edmonds entered the info. Ms. Wood went on to report that in August a property was transferred to a new owner and she was surprised to see that the new owner was issued a mooring permit for the mooring that the previous property owner had given up. Ms. Wood returned to the Harbormaster's office to confirm that this transfer had happened and was surprised to see that her name was then number three on the list that she had previously been the only one on. Ms. Wood then spoke with Jim Caulkett who resolved the problem by issuing Ms. Wood a new mooring location outside the eel grass area of the Diamond Cove mooring field.

The committee had a long discussion about the mooring field, the eel grass and the process of handling the wait list. The committee agreed that there had been a problem in entering Ms. Wood's application and therefore as the only one on the wait list when she applied in June she was entitled to the mooring spot that had been relinquished by the person who had sold the property.

Jim Caulkett agreed to contact the new owners of the property, explain the error and re-issue the original mooring in question to Ms. Wood while offering the new mooring location to the new property owners. Jim Caulkett told the committee that the other two people on the wait list for that area had also been issued moorings

**Item One : Cripple Cove Public Landing** Jim Caulkett reported that he and the Con Com agent, Lisa Press, the shellfish warden, Dave Sargent, Patti Page and Cate Banks had done a site visit to look at the condition of the grounding pads in the area of the careening wall of the Cripple Cove public landing. This issue had been brought to the attention of the Board by Mr. Don King. These pads were installed approximately 16 years ago and are now broken and needing to be replaced. Jim Caulkett was advised by Lisa Press to submit an RDA in order to get permission to replace these pads with new pads that are similar to what was originally installed.

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Discussion followed about the type of vessels that use this careening wall and that stronger pads would be more desirable. Jim Caulkett will look into what is available and report to the Board.

**Item Three: Inner Harbor mooring grid goals and process** Cate Banks explained that since the proposed floating marina had been put on the shelf it was time to look at re-gridding the Inner Harbor mooring field. Of particular concern to her is that the Federal Anchorage should not be encroached upon by moorings. She stated that, with the help of the mooring grid that the Waterways Board had hired CLE to create, there ought to be a way to re-arrange the moorings in the field to accommodate all the permitted vessels behind the line that divides the anchorage from the mooring field and perhaps create a few more moorings.

Jim Caulkett provided a chart showing the current moorings roughly located. Discussion followed centered around moving the smaller vessels to a shallower, tighter area and then rearranging the larger vessels. Questions arose as to how to define a "small vessel" and where in the mooring field should they be relocated to. It was agreed that Jim Caulkett would work with Mark Lacey to develop a plan by the November Public Facilities meeting that, once approved by the committee, would then be presented to the full Board for approval prior to holding a public hearing.

### **Item Four: Discuss possible landing in Smith Cove and proposed survey of a portion of Lanes Cove**

Cate Banks explained that she, Ralph Pino and Jim Caulkett had travelled into Smith Cove in the Harbormaster boat at low tide to investigate the possibility of creating a landing float system off the City Owned Parking Lot on Rocky Neck. There currently exists the remains of a historic landing (referred to as #52 "Rocky Neck Landing" in both the city's public landing brochure and a document prepared by Peg Witek in June of 1988 titled "Public Landings: a plan to Reclaim, Protect and Enhance Public Access to the Water"). Cate Banks and Jim Caulkett had previously made a site visit to this location with the Con Com agent and the Shellfish warden who agreed that something could be done in that location.

Jim Caulkett described, with a chart that he provided, that the idea is to build a small platform over the rip rap off the parking lot, attach an ADA compliant gangway to it leading to bottom anchored floats extending out toward the Harbor Commission line in order to have access during low tides. The concept is to also create permitted dinghy tie up space similar to what exists at the Cripple Cove landing.

On a **motion** by Patti Page with a second by Bob Gillis the committee voted unanimously to recommend to the full Board that it authorize the Harbormaster to proceed with seeking Conservation Commission approval for a float system off the city owned parking lot on Rocky Neck Ave to the maximum extent possible.

The committee then discussed that at a previous Board meeting it had been voted to perform a survey of potential private property encroachment on the North East side of the Lane's Cove Fish Shack. Funds had been allocated for this survey in combination with having a survey done at the Head of Lobster Cove Landing. Jim Caulkett will look into how much of that allocation was used in the complicated survey of the Head of Lobster Cove landing and report to the Board.

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**Item Five: Report from Harbormaster on Parking passes for Harbor Cove tenants** Jim Caulkett reported that he had worked with the Mayor's office to secure parking placards for the tenants and their crew to use for parking at the City Owned commercial marina known as Harbor Cove. With the recent approval of using the I4C2 parcel for paid public parking there have been citations issued to the tenants of the marina. Discussion followed regarding abuse of these parking placards, i.e. potential to pirate copies, as well as lost or forgotten placards. Jim had thought the system that was put into play already would suffice but will bring a copy of the placard to the next Board meeting to see if change is needed. In the meantime he will pay attention to how the system is working so far.

**Item Six: Review of Chapter 91 licenses:** Jim reported that the second installment of a mitigation fee required by the Chapter 91 license for the property at 79 Eastern Point Blvd has been paid in the amount of \$3,598. He reported that there are three more installments due. These funds go into the Chapter 91 account to be used for public access.

**Item Seven : Review of amendments to mooring permits:** Jim Caulkett presented the following requests for amendments to permits that had been received by his office;

1/ Charlie Nugent, Inner Harbor, #0092, 20' to 32'

2/ Victor Allen, Little River, #0942, 17' to 22'

3/ Jack Sulton, Smith Cove (Pirates Lane) #0065, 32' to 43'

4/ Dr. Pinegar, Area "D", #0556, brief history 28' to 9' to 14' to 24' (son now)

Discussion followed on the process of granting amendments to permits in light of the ongoing mooring survey to achieve as close to 100% compliance in mooring use as possible. Cate Banks expressed a desire to have the Harbormaster explain to the full board how his office is handling permittees who have been observed by the public as having not been using their mooring habitually and then suddenly appear to have been granted an amendment to change the vessel listed on the mooring permit. Cate Banks' concern is that the Board members should know the process being applied in the Harbormaster's office in order to accurately answer questions Board members may receive from the public.

**Item Eight : Continuing and unanticipated:** Jim reported that a site visit to 132 ½ Wheeler Street revealed nothing in conflict with the chapter 91 license. He presented a drawing for the proposed fishing pier off the Boulevard. He also reported that the insurance premium that covers Public Landings has increased by \$ 400.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12 P.M.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Cate Banks