

**Public Facilities Committee
1st Floor Council Conference Room
City Hall 9 Dale Avenue
Gloucester, MA 01930
November 19, 2013**

Minutes

Present: Patti Page, Mark Lacey, Cate Banks and Jim Caulkett

Also Present: Doug Cameron, Jim Bordinaro, Donna Crocker

Chairperson Banks opened the meeting at 5:00 P.M.

The committee allowed Ms. Crocker to explain that she had attended the meeting to open a dialogue about the management of moorings. Chairperson Banks explained that this topic is to be on the agenda for the December Board meeting and it would be good if she could attend.

The committee then agreed to take items out of order to accommodate Mr. Cameron

Item Three: Update on County Landing

Doug Cameron, of the State's Office of Fishing and Boating Access, made a presentation about the proposed car top public access work that the State is willing to do at County Landing. The Gloucester City Council has already voted to enter into the land management agreement with the state for the creation of this car top landing but there needed to be a clarification of the use of the site. Because State funds will be used to create and maintain this landing, it is required that it be open to all on an equal basis and that there be a minimum of 4 parking spaces dedicated to the landing and identified with signage that will be installed by the State. The committee discussed that since the city's CSO project was completed in that area the landing has been slowly being used for activities other than strictly landing use and that it might be best if the board were to take the position that County Landing be returned to being used solely as a landing. Considering that, on a MOTION by Mark Lacey, seconded by Patti Page i was unanimously voted to recommend to the full Board that the city go forward with this project.

Item One: Inner Harbor Mooring grid goals and process

The committee had a long discussion about the pros and cons of gridding the Inner Harbor and moving moorings out of the Federal Anchorage. It was proposed that the Harbormaster come up with a plan to re-locate ten to twelve vessels currently mooring in the Inner Harbor mooring field, sized 20 feet or less in length, to a concentrated area of the mooring field near the rocky area. These moorings are to have similar scope and ground tackle in order for them to move about in a uniform way. The committee proposed a two phase approach to the inner harbor.

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Item One: Inner Harbor Mooring grid goals and process - cont.:

The first is to move these “smaller vessels”. The second phase would be to then look at the space that is created by this relocation and have the Harbormaster work with the Waterways Board to decide how to best utilize that space, i.e. take names off the wait list, add transient moorings or both. Pending Board approval, Jim will draft a letter to send out to the particular permittees regarding the relocation plan. In it he is to include reference to the regulation that authorizes him to relocate moorings. The committee asked for a time frame and it was agreed to notify the permittees that their new coordinates would be marked by April 15 and that they should arrange to have their new gear moved by May 15. The letter is also to request that the Harbormaster’s office be notified that the gear is in place so that it can be checked for accuracy.

Item Two: Discuss possible landing at Smith Cove

Cate Banks presented a copy of a survey of the city owned property and water sheet at the parking lot on Rocky Neck Avenue. She explained that over the years there has been some discussion about creating a dock system off the parking lot in order for the city to utilize this property as a public landing for Rocky Neck. She also explained that the Conservation laws are getting more restrictive and that if the City doesn’t do something at this location in a timely fashion that the “door might close” on the opportunity. It was observed that the plan didn’t seem to reflect accurate boundaries. Cate Banks volunteered to look into the matter and report back to the committee.

Item Three: Update on Cripple Cove Landing

Jim pointed out that Item Three on the agenda was a two part item and a report on Cripple Cove was still due. He reported that he has a meeting schedule for Friday, November 22nd with a contractor to discuss the careening pads. Jim will report to the full Board about that meeting.

Item Four: Review of Chapter 91 licenses None

Item Five: Review of Amendments to mooring permits:

Jim informed the committee that he had received a request by Mr. Jack McKay to swap mooring locations with Mr. Jerry McKay Jr. in Lobster Cove. When the committee asked for more detail on these two permittees and how they had been using their moorings, Jim admitted that he needed to look into the matter further for more information. Patti Page expressed the desire that the Harbormaster bring the files and details about permittees when presenting amendments to permits, as well as for other decisions that the Harbor master is asking the Board and Committees to make a determination about. It would expedite the process if all the details arrived at once rather than have to wait a month for the next meeting. Jim said he would get more information and present it to the full Board, if possible, otherwise it will be presented at the next Public Facilities meeting.

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Minutes Continued

Item Six: Continuing and unanticipated business:

Jim presented a communication from the City's General Council, Suzanne Egan, regarding a property owner, Sarah Hackett, who wishes to install a gangway and float at the end of a narrow strip of land on Lobster Cove. Cate believes that there is still a dispute about this and more research is required.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cate Banks