

# **Minutes**

**Public Facilities Committee  
Gloucester High School Guidance Department Conference Room  
Leslie O. Johnson Rd.  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
June 19, 2012**

**Present:** Patti Page, Phil Cusumano and Cate Banks

**Also Present :** Jerry and Rosalee Nicastro, Arthur Wonson, John Greenleaf, David Shaffer, Ben Ives and Scott Rowe

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

## **Item 1 Active Commercial fishing Requirements for City Owned Commercial marinas**

Chairperson Banks explained to the attendees that until this year the only use guidelines for these marinas were those that were set out in City Ordinance and the lease agreement. The Waterways Board completed the current regulations in 2011. She stated that from her point of view we are at day one of paying attention to adherence to the Rules and Regulations.

Discussion followed on how to determine if a vessel is being actively fished. Possible indicators discussed were;

1. Require minimum number of days out fishing
2. Sales slips
3. Percentage of income derived from fishing (needs to be checked with the legal department)
4. Length of time vessel is in the water each year

Patti asked how we determine if the vessel is fully rigged.

Most agreed that we face a difficult challenge in determining whether a vessel is being actively fished. The percentage of income was a very helpful method. Those tenants holding only a striper or tuna permit pose the most challenge due to the fact of either a shortened fishing season (stripers) or elusive fish (tuna).

The committee will ask for board guidance as well as ask the city's legal department for comments.

Chairperson Banks closed this agenda item asking that the tenants work with the Board and the Harbormaster's office to help keep our only two city owned commercial fishing marinas thriving and viable.

## Minutes

**Item 2: Inner Harbor mooring grid** The committee is in unanimous agreement that a mooring grid plan for the inner harbor needs to be completed as soon as possible. It also was agreed that the plan to install the boundary marks for the proposed floating marina, which was supposed to have happened already, be acted on. Having these markers in place now that the season is in full swing will be very demonstrative.

**Item 3: Update on transient vessel surveys** The committee did a final review of the document and feels it is ready for the Harbormaster's office to mail out. A four week follow up should be planned.

**Item 4: Report from the Ad Hoc committee on BIG grant requirements** Phil reported on a preliminary meeting that was held with Stephanie Cunningham at New England Marine Fisheries. Stephanie is the Federal Aid and Grant Coordinator and we are lucky to have a person in that position right here on Emerson Ave. A follow up meeting is scheduled for later in June and further information will be available after that time.

**Item 5: Review of Chapter 91 licenses** When Chapter 91 licenses arrive to the Harbormaster's office there is a 30 day comment period. The committee had one license before them that Jim had highlighted the requirement of a fee to be paid into the appropriate account that is being set up within the Enterprise Fund for use on public access projects. Jim was not in attendance so he can report at the board meeting about his communication with Ben Lynch, of DEP, on who is to "watchdog" compliance with the granted licenses within city waters.

**Item 6: Review of amendments to mooring permits** The committee discussed some of the various reasons why the regulations were changed on this subject. There are permittees who wish to keep their mooring after they no longer own a vessel and make an arrangement with another vessel owner to "partner" on the vessel. This allows people not on the wait list to get a mooring which is not fair to those paying ten dollars a year. The other reason for this new format is that a good part of the revenue collected is from mooring permits and every foot of length matters. Management of the mooring fields is essential and the beginning stage of this is gridding the inner harbor. Having board members who have a daily opportunity to watch various mooring fields, how the wind, tide and currents affect the moored boats, can be a useful tool for the HM office when considering a change in vessel size.

**Item 7: Continuing and other business** None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cate Banks