

MINUTES

**Waterways Board Special Meeting
5 p.m. 3rd Floor Conference
City Hall
Gloucester, MA 01930
July 22, 2013**

Present: Anthony Gross, Cate Banks, Vito Calomo, Patti Page, Ralph Pino, Jim Bordinaro, Jim Caulkett

Also Present: Susan Nilson, Jim Duggan

Chairman Gross opened the meeting at 5 p.m.

Oral Communications: none

CLE Progress Report on Floating Marina Feasibility Study: Susan Nilson spoke to the Board on the progress of the Feasibility Study for the Floating Marina. Copies of the report were passed out for all to review. She said the task was to look at 4 locations with a basis on figuring feasibility on exposure, on an engineering standpoint for the floating breakwater marina, a regulatory standpoint, and also looking at it as resource areas specific to a beach site, proximity to utilities, and wave conditions. Putting something out there that could sustain 60 mph winds was also considered. Whatever is put out there should be sustainable, you don't want to see it break loose in a storm but there could be damage; also, you don't want to put it in a situation where there is unnecessary risk. She spoke about the various permits and the agencies to contact. Via a diagram Susan elaborated on the reasons various areas are not viable and commented on the 4 alternative sites. She continued with the capital cost, operating and maintenance costs and the spread sheet used to figure estimate possible revenues, coming up with a break even scenario on the operating costs. The figures given did not cover the capital cost. Discussion followed with the possibility of how many boats would be using the floating marina. Vito gave his comments on the marina and he feels it will not work. Susan worked for 5 years with New Bedford's Harbor Commission on a plan to attract more recreational boaters and they are still working on it. Chairman Gross stated that what they are looking at is not overly optimistic or pessimistic numbers. Does the Board think it's worthwhile to move forward with this project? Discussion followed on the BIG Grant, if there is a cost for permits. Vito stated that the Board should move forward so that they will know where they are at before they do anything; without the answers they can't do much.

Ralph Pino feels this project is financially non-viable, throwing good money after bad. He spoke of the difference in the numbers and feels the Solomon Jacobs project is more important and they could use the money on something else. Cate Banks agreed with some of Ralph's points, but since they have been pushed at this point she feels they should continue with the MEPA application and find out whether or not they can get permission to put it there. Jim Bordinaro feels in the long term it makes no sense. He spoke of various size vessels and the length of time they would stay. Also, he would like to know the cost before moving forward. Patti Page suggested starting small with a float in one of the viable areas, advertise and see how it would work. Chairman Gross stated a report will be coming for the next Board meeting on August 7th. Discussion continued with the overall aspects of the project. No vote needed this night since discussion will continue at the August meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Shirley M. Edmonds