

Minutes of the
Town of Gosnold
Harbor Management Committee
April 16, 2022

Item 1. (Call to Order/ Minutes/Mail) A hybrid meeting of the Town of Gosnold Harbor Management Committee via ZOOM teleconference and in person at Town Hall on Cuttyhunk Island was called to order at 10:02am. Present were Harbor Committee Members Ralph Cataldo, Paula DiMare, Lexi Lynch, Maddie Lynch, Leo Pierre Roy, and Lisa Wright, representing a quorum of the Committee. Also present for portions of the meeting were Harbormaster/Wharfinger George Isabel, Mooring Collector/Assistant Harbormaster Dale Lynch, Treasurer Sarah Smith, Alden Anderson, Candace Brown, Skip Garfield, Geo Huey, Bob Hurley, Charlie Lovell, Cheryl Lovell, Duane Lynch, Carlyn Nunes, Rosie Goettsche, Sean Uiterwyk, and Nancy Wilder. Chairman Roy confirmed that the Committee members could hear the discussion and be heard.

Lisa Wright moved acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of January 8, 2022, as written and distributed. The motion was seconded by Lexi Lynch and passed unanimously. Ms. Wright said that a bill from Dale Lynch in the amount of \$3,032 was received for work preparing the harbor for the season. The sense of the meeting was to approve the invoice.

Chairman Leo Roy reported that he had received a request from Kim Leonard to place a stand next to the flagpole to sell tee shirts as she had done some years ago. Lexi Lynch said that she would abstain from any vote on this issue, as she had a business in the Town Dock area. Paula DiMare said that her understanding was that the Committee had decided to only allow food vendors in that location. Maddie Lynch said that she did not intend to operate the taco cart this summer, but that she agreed with Ms. DiMare that the location was established solely for a food business. Ms. Wright observed that Kim's mother, Bonnie Veeder, only used her shack on the Fish Dock for storage, and suggested that Kim might be able to use her mother's shack for her tee shirt business. George Isabel said that he was neutral on the issue. Mr. Roy asked for the sense of the Committee, which was to reserve the spot next to the flagpole for a food vendor, if we had an applicant, but to otherwise keep it vacant this season. Mr. Roy said that he would contact Ms. Leonard, and suggest that she use her mother's shack.

Mr. Roy said that the Committee had received a request from Skip and Horace Garfield to add a platform in their slip to allow easier access to their boats. He said that the narrow platform would run from the dock to an existing piling, and would be similar to several others that already existed in the marina. Mr. Roy said that the Garfield's understood that they would be responsible for the cost of installation, and that once installed it would become property of the Town. Ralph Cataldo said that he had one in his slip, and that he felt that it made the marina safer. He said that he was totally fine with the Garfield proposal. Mr. Roy asked for a sense of the meeting, which approved the request.

waiting until May1 to connect them. He said that he was flipping the chain this year in the second row of moorings. He said that the chain was replaced 10 years ago, and that he was flipping it to even out the wear. He said that he planned to dive on and to inspect moorings 11-20 this spring, as part of the 3-year cycle of inspections.

Mr. Lynch said that he would like to hire an Assistant Mooring Collector this season, given that in his role as Water Department Manager he would be tied up this year overseeing the water main replacement project. He said that he wanted to continue as Mooring Collector, but that he imagined a very busy summer. Ms. DiMare said that we wanted Mr. Lynch to continue as our Mooring Collector, as he did an excellent job, and that she thought getting an Assistant this year was a great idea. Mr. Cataldo agreed, and said that Mr. Lynch should definitely have some help this year. The sense of the meeting was supportive. Mr. Lynch said that he would prepare a job description for posting and distribution on Ms. DiMare's Cuttyhunk Telegraph. Mr. Roy said that he could increase the FY23 budget to include some salary for the position.

Item 3. (Harbormaster/Wharfing Report) Harbormaster/Wharfing George Isabel reported that the reservation system for the marina opened on January 15, and that they had been receiving requests daily since then. He said that he has been receiving requests from many big boats, including some 90 footers. He reported that the marina was ready for the season, except for a couple of broken pilings that needed replacing. He said that he would contact Don Lynch about replacing the pilings. He said that we needed some power posts added to the Fuel Dock and the Ferry Dock, and that he would contact Electric Light Department Manager Wayne Perrier to discuss the installation. Ms. Wright asked Mr. Isabel about summer staffing, and he replied that Angus Garfield and Peggy Lovell were planning to return. The Committee was pleased to hear that, as they were great. Chairman Roy suggested that we again try to find a third Wharf Assistant to help with regularly cleaning the Public Toilets Building and managing the solid waste in the Town Dock area. Mr. Isabel said that he thought that Ginny Doran would be willing to help clean the bathrooms again this year. Mr. Roy said that he greatly appreciated Ms. Doran's help, but that it would be nice to have a dedicated staff member. Ms. DiMare agreed to post the position on the Cuttyhunk Telegraph.

Item 4. (Harbor/Wharf budget review) Chairman Roy presented the FY23 budgets for Harbor and Wharf that he had previously distributed electronically. He asked for any comments or questions. He said that following the review and approval of the draft budgets by the Harbor Committee, the budgets were reviewed by the Finance Committee at their meeting on April 30. Once they approved, or offered any amendments to our budgets, they would be returned to us for our final approval. The sense of the Committee was to approve the Harbor budget as prepared.

Ms. DiMare suggested that we consider laying wastewater pipe across the Marina parking lot from the Fish Shacks to the Public Toilets Building before the parking lot was paved to avoid having to rip up the pavement in the future. Mr. Roy said that it was a

good suggestion, and that he would speak with the engineers about it. The sense of the Committee was to approve the Wharf budget as prepared. Duane Lynch asked if the Committee intended to upgrade the electrical service to the Town Dock area this year. He said that he had heard that the transformers needed to be upgraded, and that he was hoping to have 200 amp service to his Lobster Shack this summer. Mr. Roy said that he would speak to Wayne Perrier about the schedule for upgrading the service.

Item 5. (Review lists of moorings, slips, shacks, and vendor spots) Mr. Roy reviewed the Waiting List for Annual Moorings. He noted that we had two vacancies, and that Alan Symonds had recently contacted the Committee to inform us that he no longer planned to use his Annual Mooring. Mr. Roy said that the first two people on the Waiting List, Bob Hurley and Kurt Rauschenbach, have been on the list for over 20 years. He recommended granting Annual mooring A-A-4 to Bob Hurley, and Annual mooring A-A-6 to Kurt Rauschenbach. Mr. Roy said that Geo Huey was next on the Waiting List, and he recommended granting Annual mooring A-A-1 to him. Mr. Roy said that Jim Barry, who recently passed away, had an Annual mooring in the “B” area. He recommended that the Committee allow the Barry family use of that spot this summer, to give them time to make other arrangements for a mooring location. Maddie Lynch said that she agreed with Mr. Roy’s recommendations, and the sense of the meeting was to proceed as outlined.

Mr. Roy said that he had been in communication with Charlie Lovell regarding the status of his Seasonal mooring in the Federal Basin. Mr. Roy stated that our Harbor Management bylaw designates Seasonal moorings as non-transferable. He said that Mr. Lovell believes that his mooring location is “grandfathered” because it was in existence prior to the passage of the bylaw. Mr. Roy acknowledged that the bylaw was poorly worded, as it did not define Seasonal moorings in the Definitions section, and took responsibility for it, as the drafter of the bylaw. He said that the intent of the bylaw has been followed, as 7 of the original 15 private moorings have been transferred to the Town upon the death of the mooring holder. Charlie Lovell said that the bylaw clearly says that “The right to use a mooring location in existence or approved prior to the effective date of this (bylaw) is unaffected by this Harbor Management Plan. Said moorings are “grandfathered”...” Mr. Roy said that this did not apply to moorings in the Federal Basin, which are addressed in Section 6. Mr. Lovell said that he had letters from two previous Chairmen of this Committee confirming that his mooring location was “grandfathered”. Mr. Roy said that he spoke with Seth Garfield, who signed one of those letters, who admitted to being confused about the status, and was “in error”. Mr. Roy said that he intended to discuss the matter with the other former Chairman, Bruce Borges, when he returned from Florida. Mr. Lovell said that he considered our regulations to be untenable if they did not consider his mooring location to be “grandfathered”.

Maddie Lynch said that she was persuaded by Mr. Lovell’s argument, particularly the letters from two previous Chairmen of the Harbor Committee. Lexi Lynch said that she agreed with Maddie Lynch. Mr. Roy noted that the Committee had also received an email from Roger Fortier saying that he believed that his Seasonal mooring in the

Federal Basin was “grandfathered”. Ms. DiMare suggested that we continue to research the matter. Mr. Lovell said that a strict reading of Section 2 of the Harbor Management bylaw clearly makes his mooring location “grandfathered”. Mr. Roy said that he appreciated Mr. Lovell’s view of the matter, and that his position was duly noted.

Items 6 and 7. (Project Updates and Old and New Business) Chairman Roy recognized Alden Anderson to discuss his subcommittee’s plans for improvements to the management of solid waste on the island this summer. Mr. Anderson said that a community forum on solid waste had been held, and that he had discussed the issue independently with Harbor Committee members, under the auspices of the subcommittee of the Town’s Climate Change Action Plan Committee. He said that the subcommittee had been coordinating with Solid Waste Department Manager Asa Lombard. (As an aside, he recommended that townspeople not approach Asa to talk about solid waste when he was “off duty” and spending time with his family. He said that it wasn’t fair, and that Asa deserved his time off.) He said that in addition to conversations with Mr. Lombard, they have also worked with Selectboard members Sarah Berry and Stewart Young. He said that the group’s goals were to reduce the amount of solid waste generated on the island, and to help make Asa Lombard’s job easier. He said that he recognized that the Town was in the hospitality business in serving the boaters at the Marina and on the moorings.

Mr. Anderson said that the subcommittee’s proposal included eliminating waste disposal at the Town Dock. He said that the elements of the plan were 1) boaters and residents would have to drop off their trash at the Town Transfer Station during the limited hours that it was open. Element 2) was the elimination of the pickup of commercial waste. Businesses would also have to drop off their trash at the Town Transfer Station during the limited hours that it was open. Element 3) is that all disposal, by boaters, residents, or businesses must be in Town trash bags. Mr. Anderson said that his group was working on how to communicate this plan to residents and visitors.

Mr. Roy said that Harbor Committee should be aware that this Solid Waste subcommittee was an advisory group to the Selectboard, and not the decision-makers on solid waste management in Town. He said that they would present these ideas to the Selectboard, who would make the final decision, as Solid Waste Department Manager Asa Lombard worked for them. Mr. Roy said that he has long advocated that we not accept boater’s waste, but that it was impractical. He said that boaters expected to have a place to dispose of their waste, like at every other marina around the world. He said that we needed to allow boaters to dispose of their waste, but that we didn’t need to encourage it. He said that because of the Environmental Fee of \$5 per boat per night, we had been distributing trash bags, but that we didn’t have to. He said that in exchange for the \$5 Environmental Fee we should at least give the boaters a “free” bag for municipal trash if they asked for one.

Solid Waste Subcommittee Co-Chair Nancy Wilder said that her group wasn’t just targeting the boaters, but also the residents and renters. She said that their message

was “You Can Take It With You”, encouraging people to not leave waste behind on Cuttyhunk. She said that they wanted to encourage people to not bring as much stuff to the island, and to “Make Cuttyhunk a Little Greener”. She said that homeowners were now going to pay an annual solid waste disposal fee per house, as well as the bag fee, so she saw no reason while boaters couldn’t pay the nightly fee in addition to paying for a bag.

Ms. Wright said that Asa Lombard was buying a new truck, and that he planned to park it next to the marina for the boater’s waste. Mr. Anderson stated that that idea was on hold, and that Mr. Lombard didn’t like the trash trailer either. Ms. Wright disagreed with Mr. Anderson and said that as of last Friday a truck was on order. She said that most of the boaters in the marina did not have dinghies, and therefore would have no way to get their trash over to the Transfer Station. Furthermore, she said that the Town had a large inventory of trash bags that needed to be used.

Lexi Lynch agreed that only about half of boaters had dinghies. She said that Mr. Lombard had an assistant lined up for this summer, which should mean more frequent trips to empty the truck with boater’s waste. She said that the truck should be regularly emptied at 10am and 4pm. She continued by saying that she had no problem with bringing her commercial waste directly to the Transfer Station for disposal. She suggested that nothing be left in the parking lot overnight.

Dale Lynch said that he appreciated Ms. Wilder’s and Mr. Anderson’s efforts to improve the environment. But he said that as the initiator of the idea of a nightly Environmental Fee, he was dismayed that no one from their committee contacted him. Mr. Lynch reminded the group that he was the “boots on the ground” interacting with the boaters every single day. He said that he thought that it was unfair and short-sighted to blame the visiting boaters for Cuttyhunk’s solid waste problems. He said that the boaters were not the enemy. He said that most of them did not dispose of their trash on the island, rather they took it back to their home port. He said that our visitors were the economic lifeblood of the island, not the enemy. Mr. Lynch said that he was all for encouraging recycling and for producing less waste, but that we should focus on the residents. Mr. Lynch suggested that the subcommittee was ignoring construction and demolition (C&D) waste which is a significant portion of our Town waste stream. He said that if a visiting boater is paying \$1,000 in dockage fees for a weekend, he deserved a convenient place to dump his waste, and that this was not a lot to ask. He said that we supplied a bathroom, potable water, and electrical service, so it would be unprofessional to make trash disposal so hard. He said that on the mainland all commercial businesses paid private companies to manage their waste. He said that Asa Lombard estimated that 50% of the island’s waste was commercial, so he suggested that the subcommittee not put the burden on the boaters. He said that given our number of boaters, over the season we may manage maybe 4,000 bags of trash from them. At 5 lbs./bag, that’s only 20,000 lbs., or 10 tons. He said that this is only 10% of our annual waste generation.

Mr. Anderson apologized for focusing on the boaters’ waste, which he said that he did because this was the Harbor Management meeting. He said that the subcommittee was

also looking at commercial waste and C&D, but that these were bigger issues that would take longer to solve. He repeated his assertion that the Town is in the hospitality business, and that he recognized that we needed to serve our customers.

Wharfinger George Isabel said that he hadn't received any complaints about the \$5/night Environmental Fee, and that folks came to his office if they needed a bag. He agreed with the earlier comments that boaters at the marina generally did not have skiffs, so it would be impractical to ask them to bring their waste to the Transfer Station. He said that, in his opinion, it would also be improper to ask them to do that. He said that we needed to establish a system that didn't encourage illegal dumping. He said that the boaters needed a convenient place to leave their trash. Chairman Roy agreed, saying that we needed a disposal facility near the marina for the boaters.

Ms. Wilder said that her subcommittee wanted to see a reduction in the amount of trash on Cuttyhunk. She said that we are a small community with a big solid waste problem. She said that she agreed with Dale Lynch that C&D waste needed to be addressed.

Dale Lynch suggested that we were looking at the issue all wrong. He said that the Harbor Committee was responsible for the business of the marina and rental moorings, and that perhaps we should manage that waste separately from the Town's waste management system. He said that if we took responsibility of collecting and transporting that waste to the Transfer Station, and that would be a lot cheaper than the \$80,000/year that we were contributing to the Town to manage the waste, between the Town Reimbursement from Harbor, and the new Environmental Fee. He suggested that the Harbor Committee take ownership of the issue, and manage it directly.

Duane Lynch agreed, saying that we could create a seasonal position to just manage boaters waste and to clean the public toilets. He suggested that whatever system we established, the truck or cans should be removed at night, because that is when the illegal dumping by residents occurred. Mr. Anderson said that the subcommittee did intend to focus on household waste, but that they needed community support. He said that he wanted everybody to pay their fair share, and that we were all part of the solution. He said that he did not intend to unfairly target the boaters.

Paula DiMare observed that if the Transfer Station was open daily, particularly during ferry times, it would be much easier for residents to drop off their trash. Mr. Roy agreed, saying that residential dropoff at the Town Transfer Station was the method used in most of the small towns in the Berkshires... curbside pickup in rural communities was unheard of, unless you contracted for that service privately.

Chairman Roy summarized the consensus of the Committee, which was that we needed a convenient place for our customers to dispose of their trash near the marina/dinghy dock, and that the cost of disposal was included in their nightly Environmental Fee... they shouldn't have to pay twice. He said that he heard agreement that overnight disposal should be discouraged by not parking the truck there

overnight, and that during the day the disposal should be monitored. The Committee agreed with his summary.

Lisa Wright suggested that the waste and recycling subcommittee meet with the relevant parties, including Asa Lombard, business owners, and householders as they continued to develop their plan. Mr. Anderson said that they were planning another such meeting.

Item 8. (Meeting Dates/Public Comment) Chairman Roy proposed the following dates for future meetings: Saturday, May 7 at 10:00am, Thursday, June 16 at 10:30am, and Saturday, July 16 at 10:00am. There was no objection to these dates. He asked for further Public Comment. Charlie Lovell requested a written response from the Committee to his letter, and Mr. Roy replied that we would prepare one.

Item 9. (Adjourn) Ms. Wright moved to adjourn the meeting, and upon a second by Ms. DiMare, the motion was passed unanimously at 12:20pm.

TO DO LIST:

1. Mr. Roy to write a letter on eelgrass regeneration to the regulatory authorities, once Mr. Garfield performs the survey.
2. Mr. Roy to request the scope and fee proposal from Foth for a new marina layout.
3. Mr. Roy to check with the engineers about wastewater discharge from the Fish Shacks.
4. Mr. Roy to talk with Wayne Perrier about upgrading the electrical service to the Town Dock.

Respectfully submitted, Leo Pierre Roy

Approved June 16, 2022