

Minutes of the  
Town of Gosnold  
Harbor Management Committee  
May 7, 2022

**Item 1. (Call to Order/ Minutes/Mail)** A meeting of the Town of Gosnold Harbor Management Committee via ZOOM teleconference was called to order at 10:03am. Present were Harbor Committee Members Ralph Cataldo, Paula DiMare, Seth Garfield, Lexi Lynch, Maddie Lynch, Leo Pierre Roy, and Lisa Wright, representing the entirety of the Committee. Also present for portions of the meeting were Harbormaster/Wharfinger George Isabel, Town Treasurer Sarah Smith, Alden Anderson, Tally Garfield, Geo Huey, Dix Leeson, Charlie Lovell, Duane Lynch, and Nancy Wilder. Chairman Roy confirmed that the Committee members could hear the discussion and be heard.

Chairman Roy apologized for the lack of minutes from our last meeting, and said that he was working on them. Lisa Wright reported that we had received no mail. Mr. Roy reviewed the agenda, saying that the main purpose of what he hoped would be a short meeting was acceptance of the final FY23 Harbor and Wharf budgets following review and approval by the Finance Committee.

**Item 2. (Project Updates)** Mr. Roy gave the Committee an update on the Water System Improvement project, saying that work was underway and proceeding well. He said that most of the water line should be installed before the end of June, which was the most disruptive part of the project. He said that the trench openings would be brought up to grade, but then allowed to settle for a couple of months, before paving in the fall, scheduled to occur between mid-September and mid-October.

Mr. Roy reported that Foth had been engaged for the new marina layout feasibility study, and that he expected a crew to do the bathymetric survey sometime in May. He said that in parallel with this work the Selectboard had applied for a Seaport Economic Council grant for a dredging study. He said that although the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was responsible for dredging the channel and Federal Basin, the Town was responsible for other areas, such as around the marina and wharfs. He said that if the marina was converted to floating docks some dredging would likely be needed.

Duane Lynch asked if the area around the pilings could also be dredged, as the water depths aren't very deep. He said that Jesse Smith, who recently bought a house on the neck, had asked about dredging around his dock to accommodate his larger boat. Mr. Roy replied that private individuals could apply for dredging permits, but that it was a costly undertaking. He said that we were challenged in Cuttyhunk Harbor by the presence of eelgrass, which usually prohibited dredging. He said that our harbor would be a good place to study the interaction between eelgrass and boating, as both seem to coexist quite well here.

**Item 3. (Mooring/Slip Update).** Mr. Roy reported that Lisa Wright had sent out the letters to all mooring holders clarifying the status of their moorings with the annual bills. He said that the new Annual Mooring holders had been notified and billed. He said that there may be a slip opening this season, but he was waiting for Wharfinger George Isabel to resolve the need for a slip for the seasonal Police Officer. The candidate identified by the Selectmen planned to live on his boat in the marina, but the marina is already sold out for several weekends. Mr. Roy said that he hoped the issue would be resolved shortly. He said that he had made it clear to the Selectboard that we would be forgoing a not insignificant amount of revenue by dedicating a slip to this purpose.

**Item 4. (Kawasaki/Staffing/Toilets).** George Isabel reported that the Kawasaki was being repaired and would be back on island in May. He said that he appreciated the Committee's support for dedicating that vehicle for the use of the Wharf Department. He said that Angus Garfield and Peggy Lovell would be returning to work at the Marina again this summer. Mr. Roy reported that we had an applicant for the third Wharf Assistant position, and that he would be conducting a telephone interview. He said that he wants to make sure that the candidate is aware that the primary responsibilities for the position are cleaning the bathrooms and managing the trash in the Town Dock area.

**Item 5. (Wharfinger/Harbormaster Report).** George Isabel reported that he is getting more reservations every day, and that he anticipates a very busy season. He said he was working on finding a slip for the Police Officer, but it involved shifting about 20 boats that already had reservations. He said that he had figured out 11 of them, but that he was struggling with the last few. He noted that we had already collected the 50% deposit from these people, and that it wasn't fair to cancel their reservations. He wondered whether the officer could spend a few nights on a mooring if it came to that. Mr. Roy said that he would speak with Selectboard member Stewart Young who was coordinating the hiring. Mr. Roy suggested that perhaps we could ask Mel Dorr about using his slip when he wasn't using it. Lexi Lynch asked about whether Chris Cotrell's slip could be used if he was giving it up. Mr. Isabel replied that the Police Officer had a deep draft 50' boat which wouldn't fit in that slip. Lexi Lynch asked about the west side of the Ferry Dock, and Mr. Isabel replied that he was considering it. He said that he was also planning to rent space on the Fuel Dock, but needed to ask Wayne Perrier to install a power post out there. He said that he hoped that Mr. Perrier had a few spare power posts on hand. Mr. Isabel said that he had talked to Don Lynch about the two marina pilings that needed replacing, and that Mr. Lynch said that he would take care of them.

**Item 6. (Future Projects/Public Toilets)** Seth Garfield said that he put this on the agenda as a placeholder. He said that roof of the Fish Shacks Building needed repair, and that he wanted to get that on Mr. Isabel's list of projects. He also said that we needed to start planning the new Public Toilets Building if we wanted something in place by the 2023 summer season. George Isabel agreed, and said that a new Public Toilets Building should be our top priority. Mr. Roy said that he would reach out to Reid Silva of Vineyard Land Surveyors who designed the holding tank, force main, and septic

system to understand any capacity limitations. He said that he would also ask Mr. Silva whether the system could accommodate a wastewater line from the Fish Shacks Building. Mr. Roy said that, as had been previously recommended by Paula DiMare, any line should be run before the parking area is repaved in the fall.

Mr. Roy said that a prefabricated toilet building was being planned for the Ferry Dock area, and wondered whether we wanted to wait to see how that facility turned out, or order both of the buildings at the same time. Mr. Garfield said that he agreed with Mr. Isabel that we needed a replacement facility sooner rather than later, and that the building proposed for near the Coast Guard Boathouse was smaller, and a much different design, with its own holding tank. Mr. Roy said that he would reach out to the prefab bathroom company, and try to get a proposal from them for a replacement Public Toilets Building for the Town Dock area. He said that in the past we had discussed a facility with at least 4 stalls, each large enough for a family to change clothes in, and at least 2 sinks with adequate counter space. Ms. Wright said that she thought it was a good idea to get moving on this.

**Item 7. (Old Business)** Mr. Roy reported that at their meeting on April 30, 2022 the Finance Committee had reviewed the proposed FY23 Harbor and Wharf budgets that we had approved at our meeting of April 16. Prior to the Fin Com meeting, Mr. Roy had suggested a minor modification in the Harbor budget which did not change the bottom line, but shifted \$5,000 from the Harbor Stabilization line item, reducing it to \$2,000, and increasing the Special Projects fund contribution from \$60,000 to \$65,000. He said that we had a larger than normal contribution to the Harbor Stabilization line item in FY22 to refill the kitty after a large expenditure the year before. He said that with the Public Toilets Building project coming up it was more important to build up the Special Projects fund. There were no questions on the proposed budgets. Mr. Garfield moved acceptance of the FY23 Harbor and Wharf budgets, as amended. Upon a second by Paula DiMare the motion passed unanimously.

Under Old Business Mr. Roy acknowledged that at our last meeting Charlie Lovell had requested that the Committee respond in writing to his letter regarding the status of his Seasonal mooring location in the Federal Basin. Mr. Roy said that given the letter was written on legal letterhead he referred the matter to Town Counsel for a response. He asked Mr. Lovell if he had received the letter from Dan Perry yet. Mr. Lovell said that he hadn't, but that his use of the mooring location predated the passage of the Town bylaw in 1990, and therefore should be "grandfathered". Mr. Roy said that it would probably be best to defer a discussion of the matter until Mr. Lovell had reviewed the Town's letter, and said that we could discuss it at our next meeting.

Regarding WiFi service to the harbor, Lexi Lynch reported that the Cuttyhunk WiFi group was planning service improvements by adding new antennas. She said that the group had hired a consultant, and that Paul Zimbone wanted to replace the antennas on the Coast Guard Boathouse soon. Mr. Roy replied that this Committee had previously given our approval, given that there has always been communications equipment on the building, dating back to the early days of radio. He said that he believed that

Selectboard member Gail Blout had been in touch with the Massachusetts Historical Commission regarding the antenna replacement. Lexi Lynch said that the Cuttyhunk WiFi group also wanted to add an antenna on a pole at the east end of the marina. When asked the size of the pole, Lexi Lynch replied that it would be a 16' high 4x4 attached to the existing wharf structure. Mr. Roy asked Wharfinger George Isabel if he saw any issue with the proposal. Mr. Isabel said that he saw no problems, but recommended that they wait until after Don Lynch had replace the two pilings, in case they wanted to attach the pole to the new piling. Lisa Wright asked what the antenna that would be mounted on the pole looked like. Ralph Cataldo replied that it would look like the one currently on the Wharfinger's Shack, either a 14" square or round, about 3" deep. Lexi Lynch said that last year the Cuttyhunk WiFi group's \$3,500 invoice was paid in July, but they were hoping for the money sooner to pay for the new equipment. Mr. Roy said that he saw no reason not to pay the invoice as soon as we received it. Mr. Cataldo moved to approve the Cuttyhunk WiFi group's \$3,500 invoice. Upon a second by Ms. Wright, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Garfield asked what improvement in service we could expect with the new equipment. Lexi Lynch replied that the masts in the marina and mooring field interfered with the lines of sight from the previous antenna locations, and that the new locations should offer better coverage. Mr. Cataldo added that the connection from the Vineyard to Cuttyhunk was also being upgraded. Mr. Roy said that we still needed to communicate to our customers that while the WiFi service was sufficient for doing emails and Internet browsing, we did not have adequate bandwidth for all the boats in the harbor to stream movies or do heavy gaming. He said that we needed to get the word out to set appropriate expectations.

**Item 8. (New Business/Public Comment)** Under New Business Lexi Lynch asked who on the Committee was up for reelection. After consulting the Town Report, Mr. Roy replied that it was Seth Garfield and Lexi Lynch. He asked if both of them were running for reelection, and they both replied in the affirmative. Ms. DiMare and other members of the Committee expressed their support. Under Public Comment Geo Huey asked if the Committee intended to update the plan of the mooring and piling locations, given the new numbering system. Mr. Roy commended him for an excellent suggestion, and said that since we already had Foth under contract, we could ask them to prepare an updated plan.

Duane Lynch asked about the plan for handling trash this season. Mr. Roy expressed dismay, saying that we had almost concluded our first meeting in a decade without talking about the trash issue. Accepting Mr. Lynch's apology, Mr. Roy replied that he had had a conversation with Solid Waste Department Manager Asa Lombard IV about a week ago, and that Mr. Lombard had informed him that the Department planned to buy a small truck and park it near the Marina for the exclusive use of the boaters. Mr. Roy said that we were hoping to hire a third Wharf Assistant whose job description including monitoring the trash in the Town Dock area, as well as regularly cleaning the Public Toilets Building. Mr. Lynch asked if the businesses would be responsible for taking their own trash to the Transfer Station, and Mr. Roy said that this was his understanding.

Alden Anderson said that the Solid Waste and Recycling Subcommittee of the Climate Action Committee was not prepared to discuss the status of the trash management plan at this time, because discussions were still being held. He said that the group would be meeting with Mr. Lombard and Selectboard member Sarah Berry next week. Duane Lynch suggested that the business owners be included in that meeting, as they were among the most affected by any new plan. Mr. Anderson said that he would reach out, as the date and time for the meeting had not yet been set.

**Item 9. (Adjourn)** Chairman Roy noted that our next meeting would be by Zoom conference call on Thursday, June 16, at 10:30am. Ms. Wright moved to adjourn the meeting, and upon a second by Mr. Garfield, the motion was passed unanimously at 11:00am.

**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 call Reid Silva of VLS re: the septic system.
3. Mr. Roy to seek a proposal for a modular bathroom building.
4. Mr. Roy to ask Foth to prepare an updated mooring/piling plan.

Respectfully submitted, Leo Pierre Roy

Approved June 16, 2022