

Minutes of the  
Town of Gosnold  
Harbor Management Committee  
January 14, 2021

**Item 1. (Call to Order/ Minutes)** A meeting of the Town of Gosnold Harbor Management Committee via ZOOM teleconference was called to order at 4:02pm. Present were Harbor Committee Members Ralph Cataldo, Paula DiMare, Seth Garfield, Lexi Lynch, Maddie Lynch, Leo Pierre Roy, and Lisa Wright, constituting the entirety of the Committee. Also present for portions of the meeting were Harbormaster/Wharfinger George Isabel, Mooring Collector Dale Lynch, Town Administrator Michael Milanoski, Alden Anderson, Dr. Seymour DiMare, Elaine Doran, Ginny Doran, Angus Garfield, Rosemary Goettsche, Paul Lehner, and George Shaw. Other members of the public participated, but did not identify themselves. Chairman Roy confirmed that the Committee members could hear the discussion and be heard.

Mr. Garfield moved acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of October 22, 2020 as written and distributed, with one correction: the Town Boat was serviced at F.L.Tripp, not Davis & Tripp. Mr. Roy said that he would make the change. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wright, and passed unanimously.

**Item 2. (Mooring Collector's Report)** Dale Lynch reported that he was starting to work on the winter project of replacing the cables on the mooring pennants. He said that he met with RMW Ropeworks, and the folks there agreed that stainless steel cable was probably not the best material for that application, as cable works best under tension. He said that the constant flexing was causing the wire to fail at the sleeve. He said that RMW recommended using rope instead of stainless wire, which would wear better and also cost less. Mr. Lynch said that he planned to do 10 at a time, starting with the older units. He also said that he had some minor repair work to do on the floats, but nothing major. Mr. Roy said that he agreed with the switch from wire to rope. Mr. Garfield asked why we were switching vendors from Hercules, the company that had previously provided the mooring tackle, to RMW. Mr. Lynch replied that Hercules was previously owned by Wayne Bruce, who had been very responsive to our needs, but the company had been sold to IMP, a Canadian company, which has not been meeting the specifications that he provided them. He said that we had switched from rope to stainless steel wire at the suggestion of Hercules, but that in retrospect it made sense to go back to rope. Lexi Lynch asked about the cost difference, and Mr. Lynch said that he didn't have those figures yet. He said that once he had them, he would run them by a couple of the Committee Members. Mr. Roy noted that the Committee had previously approved Mr. Lynch to proceed with the pennant repairs, and thanked him for doing this.

**Item 3. (Wharfinger/Harbormaster Report)** This item was tabled until Mr. Isabel could join the meeting.

**Item 4. (Financial Report)** Mr. Cataldo said that he was still working with Town Treasurer Sarah Smith to finalize the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Harbor and Wharf financial accounting and would report on the numbers at our next meeting.

**Item 5. (Winter Projects)** Mr. Roy said that improvements to the island's trash management system, including a new bag distribution program, was the most important winter project. He asked Town Administrator Michael Milanoski to update the group on the status. Mr. Milanoski reported that he had met on island with Asa Lombard IV and Seth Garfield to review the solid waste management systems. He said that they were moving forward with purchasing bags for sale to the boaters, with a colored bag for trash and a clear bag for recyclables. He said that they were trying to source bags smaller than the 13 gallon bags sold to residents, something in the 7 or 8 gallon size, preferably with drawstring closures. Mr. Milanoski said that the three 1 1/2 yard containers worked well last year to minimize bag handling, as the containers could dump directly into the trash compactor. He said that transporting them via the skid steer was less than ideal, however, so they were looking into buying two trailers, and three additional containers, so that the trailers could be easily swapped out when full. Mr. Roy supported the plan, and recommended that they try to find thicker mil trash bags, as boaters would be transporting them by dinghy. He suggested that the Town use the state's CommBuys system for procurement, as there may be bag suppliers already on the state contract.

Mr. Garfield asked if the Marina also planned to add a \$5 fee and distribute bags, and Mr. Roy confirmed that it was the plan for next season. He added that we were also going to ask the operators of the other rental moorings to participate in the program. The question of sales tax was raised, and Mr. Milanoski offered to look into the question for us. Maddie Lynch suggested that since there was such a high volume of boaters' trash we should add containers at the Ferry Dock. She also suggested that the bags sold to the boaters should be a different color than the residents' trash bags, so we can get a sense of the relative quantities of each. Mr. Roy said that they were good suggestions, and noted that Ms. DiMare had been suggesting for some time that there be trash disposal facilities at the Ferry Dock for both residents and boaters. Mr. Roy said that we needed large signs indicating that trash disposal was only allowed if it was in Town bags.

Ms. Wright observed that we should be prepared for pushback from people saying that they didn't want to buy the bags as they didn't plan to dispose their trash on Cuttyhunk. Mr. Roy said that by calling it a mandatory environmental fee, we were going to collect it whether the boaters used the bags or not. He said that we could stress Maddie Lynch's point expressed at our last meeting that all resources are limited on the island, including water, electricity, and trash disposal, and this fee was going to offset our trash and recycling costs. Mr. Lynch said that he planned to tell his customers that the new nightly mooring fee was \$55, and that included pump-out, water, WiFi, and trash disposal.

At this point Wharfinger/Harbormaster George Isabel joined the meeting. Mr. Roy asked him if he was comfortable with adding the \$5 environmental fee and distributing the trash bags. Mr. Isabel said that he was okay with the plan, and that he didn't think that his customers would object. He said that he was okay with selling bags from the Wharfinger's Shack to those people anchoring in the harbor, or at the dock for a temporary tie-up, if they needed them. Lexi Lynch said that she had a family of four, and they only took out the trash about every three days, so why did the boaters need new bags every day? She also said that adding the \$5 environmental fee, on top of the \$5 mooring fee increase, seemed like a big jump. Mr. Roy said that the boaters were already supposed to be buying bags, or putting \$5 in the coffee can, to dump their trash. Maddie Lynch said that she understood Lexi Lynch's concern, but felt that if we presented it properly it would be better received. She said that we should let visiting boaters know in advance about the change. Mr. Isabel said that reservations for the marina opened tomorrow, and that he could post the information on Dockwa.

Mr. Lynch said that for the average boater it's a non-issue. He said that we just have to state that it's the Town's new solid waste policy and that people will go along with it. He said that we've tried lots of things, including kids sitting by the dumpster in lawn chairs and the coffee can honor system, and nothing has worked. He said that he thinks this is worth a try. Mr. Milanoski said that odds were that we would have some implementation issues, but that we could make tweaks and adjustments to the program as we went along. All agreed that it was worth a try.

Mr. Garfield asked how we were going to account for this revenue, and Mr. Roy suggested that we add line items into each of the Harbor and Wharf budgets, and do a year end transfer to Solid Waste. Mr. Milanoski agreed with that approach.

Mr. Roy suggested that we plan for a summer season similar to 2020. He said that the Covid-19 vaccine would likely still be rolling out, and that we should plan for another season of mandatory mask-wearing, hand washing, and social distancing. He said that he saw no reason to delay the Harbor facilities opening to June 1, and suggested that we open as usual on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Isabel agreed, and said that boaters were already looking forward to the summer season.

**Item 3. (Wharfinger/Harbormaster Report)** Mr. Isabel said that reservations for the season opened on Dockwa tomorrow, and that he had already received several calls. He said that he would add the \$5 environmental fee to the reservation info. He asked to confirm that the rate had been increased to \$3.50/foot, and Mr. Roy said yes, the Committee did increase the rate. Ms. Wright inquired whether the lower mid-week off-season rate would still be in effect. Mr. Isabel said that it had been an experiment to see if by offering a lower mid-week rate in the shoulder seasons we could attract more boaters, but it didn't seem to have any effect in attracting business. Mr. Roy observed that the weather forecast was more of a factor than the rate, and Mr. Isabel agreed, saying that he didn't think that we needed an off-season rate. The sense of the Committee was to keep the rate at \$3.50/foot for the entire season.

**Item 6. (Fee Increases)** This item was tabled, as it had already been discussed.

**Item 7. (Public Restrooms/Food Shacks/Summer Staffing)** Ms. Wright started the discussion by saying that the new trash bag fee system meant that we didn't need a dumpster attendant, so that person could focus on maintaining the bathrooms. She said that although the boating season was five months long, the peak period was only about two months. Mr. Roy suggested that we post the job soon, as families were coming to the island earlier in the season due to the pandemic. Lexi Lynch agreed, saying that last year there were prospective young employees on island by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Garfield said that we needed a good job description, and that we needed to enforce it. He said that for the first year of the new trash bag policy there will be some enforcement required, so people know that disposal is only allowed in Town bags. Mr. Roy offered to work with Mr. Garfield on the revised job description.

Mr. Isabel teased Angus Garfield, saying that Angus had offered to clean the bathrooms if Mr. Isabel got him a big enough toothbrush. Angus Garfield replied that his daughter Elly had been on bathroom duty last season, and he said that he felt that it was a full time job, cleaning the restrooms 2-3 times a day. Mr. Roy said that we needed to determine the schedule, but that regular frequent cleaning was definitely needed on weekends by the third weekend in June. Maddie Lynch recommended that we establish a daily cleaning schedule and stick to it. She said that last season the cleaner had a hard time getting in there to clean. She suggested that we close the bathroom for cleaning on a schedule, and Mr. Roy suggested 7am, 2pm, and 7pm, in July and August. Ginny Doran said that she had cleaned the bathrooms in the past, and that twice a day was sufficient early in the season, but when things were busy it needed cleaning at least three times a day. She suggested a cleaning after the dinner hour, as the facilities are heavily used in the evening.

In response to a question, Mr. Roy said that he would reach out to the commercial mooring operators, the Jenkins and the Berry's, to ask them to participate in the trash bag sales program.

Regarding the vendor locations, Mr. Roy said that he thought that the season had gone reasonably well with the three vendors in their spots, and thought that we could keep the status quo, if the current vendors were amenable. Lexi Lynch said that was fine with her. Maddie Lynch said that there might be some changes with her taco stand, as her father was going to be helping her with it.

Mr. Milanoski said that since we had three of the four major food vendors present, he would ask about trash bag sizes. He said that the 33 gallon size seemed too small for the big cans. He wondered what size bag the vendors preferred. Seth Garfield said that he used the 45 gallon contractor bags, which was the same size as the public trash cans. Ms. Wright said that much of the trash in the public cans came from customers of the food vendors. Mr. Milanoski said that he would be reaching out to the food vendors to discuss ideas for reducing the impact of the trash that their businesses created.

Mr. Isabel said that the size of the public trash cans was fine, but that they were often overflowing. Ms. Wright suggested that we add another can, and that they be emptied 4-5 times a day during busy weekends. Lexi Lynch said that she thought that the trash can on the dock was a bad idea; it overflowed and trash fell into the harbor. Moreover, she said that visitors were not properly recycling. She said that she often collected recyclable materials out of the trash. Maddie Lynch agreed with Mr. Garfield and Lexi Lynch that trash from the can on the dock falls into the water. Mr. Roy reminded the group of his theory that trash cans attract trash, and that to reduce trash we needed to limit the number of cans. Ms. Wright said that the issue of the vendor-created waste needed to be addressed. Lexi Lynch said that Maddie Lynch kept a trash can behind her taco cart, and accepted trash from her customers, which seemed to work well. Mr. Milanoski again offered to talk to the food vendors about the impact of the trash that their businesses created.

**Item 8. (Old Business)** Mr. Roy asked about the status of the proposed WiFi system improvements. Lexi Lynch reported that Cuttyhunk WiFi was on track to install the new antennas. She said that she had recently talked to Paul Zimbone, who had lots of ideas for system improvement. She said that the proposed replacement antenna on the Coast Guard Boathouse was key to WiFi coverage of the Basin. Mr. Garfield inquired if we were proceeding with the rental piling fee increase. Mr. Roy said yes, and that a letter needed to go out to the mooring and piling owners. He said that when he wrote to the Jenkins and the Berry's about the trash bag program he would also inform them about the increase in their annual mooring fees.

Ginny Doran asked about the status of the review of the occupancies of the Fish Shacks, reminding the Committee that her husband had applied for one, and that the Committee had discussed enforcing the rules. Mr. Roy thanked Ms. Doran for the gentle reminder, and suggested that he would write a letter to the current occupants and include a copy of the rules. Mr. Milanoski recommended that we ask the current occupants to self-certify by a certain date that they met the criteria, as a first step in enforcement. He suggested that we seek that certification annually. Mr. Garfield asked about the status of upgrading the electrical service to the Fish Dock, and Mr. Roy said that he needed to follow up with Wayne Perrier. Lexi Lynch said that she wanted to go on the record as saying that her business, and other businesses on the dock, needed adequate electrical service, and that she was willing to pay her fair share of upgrading the service. She said that the ice makers and refrigeration were a major part of their livelihood.

**Item 9. (New Business)** There was no New Business to come before the Committee.

**Item 10. (Adjournment)** After some discussion, Chairman Roy proposed that the Committee next meet by Zoom conference call, on March 18 and April 14, at 10:00am. Mr. Garfield moved to adjourn the meeting, and upon a second by Ms. DiMare, the motion was passed unanimously at 5:41pm.

Approved, March 18, 2021