

Minutes of the  
Town of Gosnold  
Harbor Management Committee  
July 15, 2021

**Item 1. (Call to Order/ Minutes)** A meeting of the Town of Gosnold Harbor Management Committee in Town Hall and via ZOOM teleconference was called to order at 10:35am. 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/Wharfing George Isabel, Mooring Collector/Assistant Harbormaster Dale Lynch, Selectboard Member Gail Blout, Town Administrator Michael Milanoski, Treasurer Sarah Smith, Alden Anderson, Nina Brodeur, Leyla Day, Seymour DiMare, Marla Garfield, Paul Lehner, Cheryl Lovell, and Nancy Wilder. 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.

Seth Garfield moved acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of June 17, 2021, with minor typographical edits suggested by Lisa Wright. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wright, and passed unanimously.

**Item 4. (Solid Waste, bathrooms, parking)** This item was taken out of order, as Town Administrator Michael Milanoski had to leave the meeting at 11am. He reported that the trash system was moving forward as is, and seemed to be working reasonably well. He said that there was no plan to install steps up to the trailer at this time. He said that the lids had been replaced, so there were no issues with seagulls. Seth Garfield said that the weekends had not been too busy, so the cans had not been overflowing. Gail Blout said that she had requested of Mr. Garfield that a dumpster be located near the Ferry Dock, and he replied that it will be done in the next 24 hours. Paul Lehner asked what materials were recyclable. He said that in the past the Town had sent around a flyer. Mr. Garfield responded that the Town was accepting containers, including glass, plastic, aluminum and tin, and cardboard.

Mr. Roy asked about the bathroom cleaning, and Mr. Isabel replied that he had been doing it, with some assistance from Ginny Doran. Mr. Garfield said that he has also been checking them about twice a day. Mr. Roy asked the group to spread the word about the Wharf Assistant's job opening, saying that it would be good to get Mr. Isabel some additional help. He asked Ms. DiMare to please post it on the Cuttyhunk Telegraph.

Regarding parking, Mr. Garfield said that people were generally following the directions of the new signs near the Ferry Dock. Michael Milanoski reported that we expected to hear shortly about the CZM grant, which would help with the planning of the solid waste

and fuel farm area. He said that he and Mr. Garfield were coordinating with the Town's LSP, Cynthia Gilchrest, on the Packer tank farm oil release cleanup.

**Item 2. (Mooring Collector's Report)** Dale Lynch reported that everything was fine with the moorings, and that everything was operational, including the floats and the boat. He said that for the end of the fiscal year, from May 15 to June 30, we had 495 boats, compared to 312 for the same period last year, with the later opening. This represents about \$27,000 in additional revenue. He said that so far in July the weather has not been good, so year to date we have had only 415 boats, vs. 520 boats by this time last year. Mr. Lynch said that he still expects that it will be a busy season, once the weather improves. Wearing his Water Department hat, he reported that backflow preventers and vacuum hose bibs have been installed at the Marina, Fish Dock, and Ferry Dock, in compliance with the requirements. He said that covers were also placed over the backflow preventers to prevent cross contamination. In response to a question from Mr. Roy, Mr. Lynch said that Michelle Tang had paid her late mooring fee

**Item 3. (Wharfinger/Harbormaster Report).** George Isabel reported that things were also going fine at the Marina. He said that since January 15, when reservations opened for the season, he has collected \$179,000. He noted that for the entire season in 2018 we only took in \$183,000, so we have made great progress. In response to a question he said that the electrical system has been working well so far. He said that there have been no blackouts, despite lots of boats in the marina, even mid-week. He said that the biggest problem was the Internet service, which goes out frequently. He said that he's also been having the same problem with the landline telephone service, with frequent dropped calls. He said that Verizon was on island today, and that he would try to speak with the service technician about it.

Seth Garfield said that all the Harbor businesses were up and running, including the Raw Bar, Café, Lobster Shack, and ice cream stand. He said that the Fish Dock was busy. He said that it was very important to have someone at the Ferry Dock to direct traffic when the boat came in. Paula DiMare said that she thought that Angus Garfield was doing a great job at that. Mr. Roy reported that he spoke with Wayne Perrier, who said that the backup generator was hooked up and ready to go.

**Item 5. (Slip Review)** Mr. Roy said that this was a continuance of the discussion begun several meetings ago, and continued at our last meeting. He said that he had distributed to the Committee the rules for Permanent and Seasonal Berths, the 2021 Waiting List for Slips, and the Boat Slip Occupancy list. He said that at our last meeting we had asked Wharfinger George Isabel to enforce the existing rules, including the requirements that the applicant for a berth "must own the boat using the berth, only one berth assigned per household, and that assignment of a berth does not entail a lease of that berth, but rather is an agreement by which a person may berth only his own boat. The Wharfinger may use temporarily vacant berths for transient boats." We had determined at our last meeting, Mr. Roy continued, that it seemed clear that the informal practice of allowing someone to use your berth temporarily is not allowed under our current rules. He said that if your boat is not in your slip, the Wharfinger can use it to

accommodate resident and transient boats. He said that if the Committee felt that the current rules were not working, we could always change them. He opened the discussion to the Committee.

Seth Garfield said that he had looked at the Boat Slip Occupancy list, and observed that several people did not fit the qualifications. He said that some people on the list didn't even own boats, in a clear violation of the rules. He said that we needed to follow the rules, even if that meant taking away someone's slip.

Ralph Cataldo said that he was concerned about the language for eligibility for a permanent berth to someone making their main livelihood in the Town, saying that very few people met that qualification. He suggested that we eliminate that language. He said that he thought that kicking people out of their slips, some of which have been occupied by the same individuals for a very long time, was not a good idea. Maddie Lynch disagreed, saying that we should give priority in assigning slips for those basing their livelihood on the island, as we were trying to encourage more year round residency. She advocated for keeping the language as is. Mr. Garfield said that he was pushing this issue to open it up for discussion. He said that we needed to be fair and equitable in how we assigned the slips, and that we had a waiting list. He said that he was open to changing the language if needed.

Leyla Day asked a clarifying question: what did we mean by "taxpayer". She said that most people paid some taxes in Massachusetts. Mr. Roy replied that we have always considered that the term applied to people who paid real estate tax to the Town of Gosnold. Ms. Day said that there was a perception that the rules were not being fairly applied. She said that if we had rules, we should follow them, and not close our eyes to the reality that they were not being followed. Ms. Blout said that in looking at the lists, there were a number of people who did not receive real estate tax bills in their names, but that properties were owned in trusts, corporations, or other entities.

Lisa Wright said that she wanted to know who had a permanent berth, and who had a seasonal slip, and how those determinations were made. She said that she didn't think that anyone was trying to take advantage of the system, but that many of us lived on an island, after all, and needed to have a boat. She said if you had a boat for basic transportation, you needed a place to put it. She wondered how to make this equitable. Mr. Roy cautioned the group that this issue could easily become very divisive, and we didn't need that in our small island community.

Maddie Lynch said that in her opinion the time frame was important. She said that when she worked in the Wharf Shack, off-island boaters here just for the occasional weekend would ask about renting a slip. She said that the rules should discourage those people who could afford to rent a slip annually, but who were not going to be here frequently. She said that we needed to preserve our few slips for people who were here for long periods of time. Lexi Lynch said that she had been listening to the discussion, and agreed with Maddie. She said if your livelihood is based on Cuttyhunk you need to have a boat, and you need to have a place to put it. She said that lots of people are only here

for 2-3 weeks, and so they don't need an annual slip. Moreover, she said that most of them can afford to pay the transient rate for their temporary slip for the time that they're here. She said that she has a parking place at Davis & Tripp in Padanaram which she pays for, because she needs a place to park her car on the Mainland. She said that it was a necessity for her, not a luxury. Ms. DiMare said that she agreed with Lexi. She said that she also agreed with Gail Blout, in that the householder paid the taxes, not necessarily an individual, and that our rules should be changed to reflect that.

Mr. Roy said that he was hearing consensus around the idea of differentiating between boats used for primary transportation and one's livelihood, and those boats used primarily for recreation. He noted that our Harbor Bylaw made that distinction in setting the priority for vessels: transportation was number one, full-time commercial was second, and pleasure was third.

Nancy Wilder said that she agreed with what others have said, and that the issue was complicated. She suggested that we look at the examples that went against the rules, such as looking at who was paying for a slip vs. who was actually using that slip. She said that she was being perceived as the person who was trying to take things away from people, but she was just upset that some people were improperly using a second slip for a second boat while she wasn't able to get a slip. Mr. Roy asked her to call him with specific examples so he could work with the Wharfinger to address those violations. Ms. Wright asked what we proposed to do about someone renting a slip who didn't meet the qualifications. Mr. Roy said that he didn't know how some of the slips were originally assigned, but noted that our current rules established the expectation that once you had a slip you would be able to renew it, as long as you continued to meet the qualifications. He said that slip renters were supposed to apply for renewal each year by March 1, but that in practice nobody did that.

Mr. Garfield asked about the seaplane float, which was reconfigured to accommodate resident dinghies, to get them off the transient dinghy float. He said that it was not intended for residents to put a second boat there, but there were 16' skiffs on that float. Mr. Roy agreed that the seaplane float was not intended for that, and that the Wharfinger needed to enforce that. Mr. Roy said that there were three rented slips on that float, those occupied by Grant Gellette, Lee Lombard, and Charmaine Gahan. Mr. Roy said that the Committee, with concurrence from the Selectboard, made the rules, and that Wharfinger George Isabel was charged with enforcing them. He said that he and Mr. Isabel would do more research, amending the occupancy list to note who had a permanent and who had a seasonal berth, and whether the seasonal slip renters were taxpayers or not. He said that it should be easy to determine if slip renters did not currently own a boat, which is a requirement to have a slip.

Maddie Lynch said that as she understood it, the shacks on the Fish Dock could be shared, but that the slips could not be. Mr. Roy confirmed that this was the way our current rules read. Mr. Garfield said that if we enforced the rules, that might create more space for the Wharfinger to rent out to transient boats, potentially increasing our revenue. Ms. Day said that she supported a tiered priority system which would give

preference to people who derived their income from their boats, over real estate taxpayers who used theirs for recreation.

Mr. Roy said that he saw two options: we could keep the current slip occupancy as it is, and base future slip assignments on the rules, or we could take slips away from people who did not currently meet the requirements. Ms. Wright offered the third option of changing the rules. Mr. Garfield requested that we continue this discussion at next month's meeting, once the additional research was completed and circulated to the Committee.

**Item 6. (Budget Update)** Mr. Roy noted that we had received the revenue reports from the Mooring Collector and the Wharfinger previously in the meeting.

**Item 7. (New Business/Commercial Use of the Wharves)** Seth Garfield said that he put this on the agenda to start a discussion of properly charging those people using the Town Docks. He said that the Cuttyhunk Ferry paid a fee to the Town to use the Ferry Dock, and paid an electric bill, but that he has seen other boats tied up at the docks and wondered if they were also paying for dockage. Wharfinger George Isabel replied that he had been putting larger boats on the Ferry Dock and Fuel Dock, and collecting the transient dockage fee. Mr. Roy observed that when the small cruise ships docked at Cuttyhunk Mr. Isabel always charged them for dockage.

Mr. Roy said that regarding commercial use of Town facilities he had been discussing the food service vendors with Town Health Agent Karen Walega, and her concern about the discharge from the sinks on the Fish Dock. Ms. Walega suggested to Mr. Roy that it would be great if the Town had properly plumbed space to rent to the food vendors. Mr. Roy said that when we plan the new bathroom building we should consider establishing a couple of vendor locations with proper wiring, ventilation, and sinks with grease traps for food service that we could rent (at a higher cost, of course, to recoup the Town's investment). Mr. Cataldo agreed, and said that he would discuss it with architect Greg Jones. He said that everybody needed more space.

Lexi Lynch agreed that there should be no wastewater discharge to the harbor, but cautioned about prohibiting food service from the Fish Shacks because the public really likes it. The boaters like walking down the dock and getting coffee, food, fish, shellfish, lobsters, and ice. She said that nothing toxic was going into the harbor, just water-based stuff and seafood juice. She said that she, and she presumed the other businesses, would be willing to have the Fish Shacks plumbed to pump the sink waste back to the tank at the Public Toilets, and that they would cover the cost.

Ms. Wright expressed concern that if we built a building with restaurant kitchens that we would have to manage it, and decide who got to rent those spaces, which she described as "nightmarish".

**Item 8. (Old Business)** Mr. Roy suggested that we review the “To Do” list under Old Business. He asked about the bulletin board, and Ms. Wright said that a new one was on order, and should be delivered in August. Mr. Roy asked Lexi Lynch about the WiFi performance metrics, and she reported that the Cuttyhunk WiFi team had made great progress. She said that 50 devices were using the service simultaneously last night. She said that they inspected the equipment in the attic of the Wharfinger Shack, and found wires that were full of water, which were replaced. She said that they relocated the router, due to a possible conflict with the antenna, and the fish weathervane on the roof.

Lexi Lynch reported that they have been talking to people on sail boats using the moorings, and some were happy with the service, and some were not. She said that the antenna on the Wharf Shack had a line of sight to Paul Zimbone’s house, but there were lots of boat masts and also metal on the sport fishing boats that caused interference. She said that they were looking at options, including relocating the antenna. She recommended that we tell our customers that the service is not intended for streaming content, which consumes bandwidth, but rather for checking email and doing Internet searches. She said that she subscribes to Direct TV at Pete’s Place so her tenants have sufficient bandwidth for streaming. Mr. Roy said that he appreciated the information, but that we would still like some performance metrics. Ms. Lynch said that they may not be able to provide it, as the basic signal changes every five minutes. Mr. Roy said that even a survey of signal strength at the marina and in the mooring field would be helpful, and she said that they would try to provide that.

Mr. Roy asked if there was any further public comment. Alden Anderson said that he was concerned about the trash trailer at the Town Dock. He observed that in renting slips at the marina, and moorings to visiting boaters, the Town was in the hospitality business. He said that if a hotel manager placed the hotel’s dumpster at the front door of the establishment, he or she would be fired. He said that he knows that we have talked a lot about the options for solid waste management, but he felt that the current trailer in its current location was a bad solution. He said that his slip is on the Bosworth float, and he has observed trash blowing off the trailer and into the harbor on more than one occasion. He said that there are so many things wrong with the current setup. Mr. Roy asked if he thought that it was better or worse than last year, and he replied that it was worse. Mr. Roy asked if he had any suggestions for improving the situation.

Mr. Anderson had several concrete suggestions. First, he suggested that we no longer accept boater’s waste at the Town Dock, but require all waste to be dropped off at the transfer station. He acknowledged that it would take some “getting used to”, but that by next season, everyone would be accustomed to the new system, and we would have removed an eyesore, the first thing that you see when you arrive at Cuttyhunk. He suggested that we keep the few cans on the dock for waste in hand, but not for trash bags. Second, he suggested that at the end of the day the vendors be required to bring their trash bags to the transfer station, noting that they all had vehicles. He said that eliminating the trailer would also stop residents from dropping their trash at the Town Dock, further compounding the problem. Mr. Roy thanked him for his suggestions, and

said that we would probably need to enlarge the dinghy dock at the Fuel Dock, which is something that we had previously discussed.

**Item 9. (Adjournment)** Chairman Roy noted that our next meeting was by Zoom conference call on Thursday, August 12, at 10:30am. Ms. DiMare moved to adjourn the meeting, and upon a second by Ms. Wright, the motion was passed unanimously at 11:49am.

**TO DO LIST:**

1. Cuttyhunk WiFi to provide service performance metrics.
2. Mr. Roy to get the annual eelgrass survey performed.
3. Ms. DiMare to post Wharf Assistant job description on the Cuttyhunk Telegraph.
4. Mr. Roy will check with Foth on the status of the marina layout scope.

Respectfully submitted, Leo Pierre Roy

Approved August 12, 2021