

Minutes of the  
Town of Gosnold  
Harbor Management Committee  
August 12, 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 10:36am. Present were Harbor Committee Members Ralph Cataldo, Seth Garfield, Lexi 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, Selectboard Member Gail Blout, Town Administrator Michael Milanoski, Conservation Commission Chairman David Warr, Emily Anderson, David Frothingham, Marla Garfield, Rosemary Rice Goettsche, Geo Huey, Dix Leeson, Paul Lehner, George Shaw, Sean Uiterwyk, 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 July 15, 2021, as written and distributed. The motion was seconded by Lisa Wright, and passed unanimously. There were no mail or bills.

**Item 3. (Mooring Collector's Report)** Dale Lynch reported that everything was going well with the moorings, and that things were very busy. He reported that year to date, through 8/8/21, we had 2,357 boats, as compared to 2,164 boats through 8/9/20. He said that Fireworks Weekend went smoothly, with no issues, and that people were very cooperative. He said that collection of the environmental fee has not been an issue, and that people don't want all those bags, with over 30% of the boaters declining to take them.

**Item 2. (Wharfinger/Harbormaster Report).** George Isabel also reported that things were busy, busy, busy. In response to a question from Mr. Roy, he replied that the open position for the third Wharf Attendant was never filled, as no one had applied for the position. He said that the bathroom cleaning was going well, with help from Ginny Doran and Peggy Lovell, and his going in there to replenish supplies. He said that he hasn't received any complaints. Seth Garfield reported that the Coalition for Buzzards Bay brought over a honey wagon on the last trash barge for the pump out tank, just before Fireworks Weekend, and they went to service the public toilets. He said that it was a good thing that they did, as both holding tanks needed pumping, and there was three feet of blockage in the force main. Mr. Roy suggested that we plan to do a similar mid-season pump out every year, and Mr. Garfield agreed.

In response to a question, Mr. Isabel said that he occasionally gets complaints about low voltage in the Marina, but that it doesn't seem to be a big problem. He said that

Wayne Perrier was at the Marina yesterday fixing a blown 50 amp breaker, but that all the breakers were now operational. Mr. Garfield said that he thought that there were two issues as the Fish Dock: that fuses were being blown due to excess demand, and that the line serving both the shacks and the power posts at the end was undersized. He said that the fuse blew because there was a big, brand new boat at the end of the dock that took at least two 50 amp connections. He said that the breaker blew in the middle of the week. He said that maybe the solution was to limit each shack and each boat to only 50 amps of service. Mr. Roy said that he thought that we should involve the Electric Light Committee (ELC) in this discussion. Noting that a member was present, he asked Mr. Lynch what he thought. Mr. Lynch replied that he felt that the Marina wiring was the responsibility of the Harbor Committee, not the Electric Light Committee. He said that it was like distribution wiring in one's home. The ELC provided the electricity to the home, but not the wiring in the home. Mr. Isabel said that after the breaker blew, the boater switched on his generator, which was extremely quiet, and got his power that way. Mr. Roy said that this was a larger discussion to be had over the winter, as we needed to assess how the temporary generator worked, and whether there was a more permanent solution. Mr. Garfield agreed, noting that he has been running the power plant in Mr. Perrier's absence, and has observed that all legs of the electrical system are exceeding normal loads. He said that there are just too many gadgets on the island, and that we are exceeding the capacity of the system.

**Item 4. (Review of Fireworks weekend, Solid Waste, Bathrooms)** George Isabel reported that there were over 100 boats in the Outer Harbor, and that most of the moorings had two or three boats on them. He said that the Marina was sold out, and that the Street Fair on Friday evening was very well attended. Mr. Garfield complimented Mr. Isabel on the organization and management of the Harbor, especially for the three rescue boats that were on hand, including the State Police and New Bedford Harbormaster. He said that the public safety presence was very good, and that the Store kindly donated meals to the emergency personnel. He said that there were no incidents or fires. Mr. Roy asked if the Selectboard's mask mandate was followed, and the consensus of the group was that compliance was not great, given no enforcement.

It was reported that the solid waste trailer seemed to be working better, although the setup was still not ideal. Mr. Roy observed that the bathroom cleaning had already been discussed.

Mr. Garfield thanked Lexi Lynch for sealing the picnic tables at the start of the season, but noted that by this point in the season they were pretty dirty. He asked who was responsible for cleaning them. He said that if they were part of a restaurant the wait staff would regularly clean them, but these were public tables. Mr. Roy suggested that the vendors get together and develop a plan and schedule for cleaning them. He said that the tables were for the benefit of their patrons, among others. Mr. Garfield offered to have his staff clean them two days a week, but noted that he closed at 6:30. Ms. Lynch said that she was also willing to clean them, if a spray nozzle was added to the hose by the Fish Dock. She said that ServSafe recommends a mixture of bleach and water. Mr. Roy asked Mr. Garfield and Ms. Lynch to approach Bonnie Veeder together to see if

she would also be willing to cover the table cleaning for a couple of days a week, and to develop and implement a cleaning schedule as a group.

**Item 5. (Slip Rules Discussion)** Mr. Roy said that he had reviewed all the previous discussion on this issue, and had developed a set of modifications to the slip rules that he believed captured the intent of the Committee. He said that he had circulated them to the group for review prior to the meeting. Summarizing the changes, he said that he had expanded the eligibility to rent a Seasonal Berth to long term renters, defined as longer than three (3) months. He said that this aligned the rules with our long term practice of renting berths to renters. He said that he also clarified that berths could be used by different boats belonging to the same household, whereas our current rules were boat-specific. He cited the example of a household renting a seasonal slip, where one family member took the house in July and wanted a place for their boat, and another family member used the house in August and wanted to use the Household slip for their boat during their month. He said that he clarified that “taxpayer” referred to a real estate taxpayer, but also clarified that “taxpayer” could include Households that owned real estate through a corporation, trust, or other entity. He said that he clearly reinforced the rule that friends of Households could not use their slips, and that vacant slips could be rented by the Wharfinger. Finally, he said that he kept the two classes of slip renters for Seasonal and Permanent, to allow a lower rental rate for those people who lived on the island for longer than six (6) months per year, AND based their main livelihood on Cuttyhunk.

Mr. Garfield thanked Mr. Roy for the proposed rewrite, saying that this was a logical clarification of the rules. David Warr asked if a slip became available, why wasn’t preference given to a taxpayer? Mr. Roy replied that the proposed revision to the rules allowed long term renters to rent seasonal slips. He also said that anyone could be on the waiting list, but that slips would be granted based on an individual’s eligibility once a slip became available.

Mr. Roy said that he understood that two slips were now available, given that Jeff Spear gave up his slip, and Mark Storek didn’t have a boat, making him ineligible to have a slip. First on the Waiting list is Bert Nagtegall, but when Mr. Isabel approached him about getting one, he didn’t want one on the south side of the Marina. Sandy Brown is second on the list, but Mr. Isabel said that he didn’t believe that Mr. Brown currently had a boat. Lisa Wright offered to contact Mr. Brown to see if he had a boat, and if he wanted to take one of the available spots on the south side. Chris Hart is third on the list, and Mr. Isabel said that he knows that Mr. Hart has a boat. Fourth is Tamlan Baumgarten, and Mr. Roy suggested that we wait to approach her until we know the status of Mr. Brown’s and Mr. Hart’s interest in taking an available slip.

With regard to enforcing the current rules, Mr. Isabel reported that he has asked folks using two slips at the dock to move their second boat, but he wondered if we might be willing to defer strict compliance until next year, given that it’s so late in the season. Ms. Wright said that she thought that was a very bad idea, and that we needed to enforce the rules. She said that we should start now to send the message that this would not be

tolerated going forward. Mr. Garfield said that he thought that we were doing a good job trying to accommodate as many taxpayers as possible, given our limited dock space. Mr. Isabel said that he did ask Don Lynch to move his second boat. Mr. Roy said that this Committee, with approval of the Selectboard, set the Harbor rules, and that we asked Mr. Isabel, as Wharfinger and Harbormaster, to enforce them.

Mr. Garfield said that the Harbor Committee had requested an assessment of WiFi coverage in the Harbor, and that we needed to get it. Lexi Lynch stated that she was Zooming into this meeting from the Fish Dock, and that the WiFi service was working great. She reported that according to Cuttyhunk WiFi's assessment, the WiFi was working remarkably well. She said that the last time she checked, all businesses were on, as were 75 boaters. She said that there have been instances when the line of sight to the Zimbone's house has been blocked by a boat's rigging, but that they were working to get the antenna higher to avoid that problem.

Mr. Garfield said that the issue was not coverage at the Marina or Fish Dock, which he agreed was good, but coverage in the mooring field. Ms. Lynch said that at any point the system administrators can log in and see who's on the service, and what the users are doing. She said that the problem was too many devices doing too much; too many gadgets. She said that when people see "free WiFi" they connect their phones, watches, laptops, TVs, and other devices, hogging the system. She said that the WiFi service is adequate for checking emails and doing Internet searches, but that it did not have the bandwidth for lots of users streaming movies and gaming. She said that if six (6) sailboats were all trying to run their Roku TV at the same time, it would bog down the service. She said that this is not a new issue, but that we needed to communicate to our customers that the free WiFi service is not meant for streaming. She said that the WiFi served 89 customers at the same time during Fireworks Weekend, which she thought was quite good.

Mr. Roy said that he appreciated the anecdotal information about the quality of service, but said that since the Harbor Committee was Cuttyhunk WiFi's biggest customer we deserved to get a report on the metrics, such as system speeds and reliability. Town Administrator Michael Milanoski stated that based upon his recent experience, the Cuttyhunk WiFi service was better than that which he experienced at Nantucket. He agreed with Ms. Lynch that an overloaded system cannot function properly.

Returning to the slip rules, Ms. Lynch said that she supported Mr. Roy's proposed edits. She said that once we ratify these new rules, it is important that they be enforced. She said that there should only be one slip allowed per Household, and only one boat per slip. She said that Mr. Garfield has been complaining about people with two boats at the dock, which was hypocritical, as he has had two boats at the dock for many years. She said that this was not right, and that Mr. Garfield should move one of his boats off the dock. She said that she was not picking on Mr. Garfield, but if we were trying to make things fair, we should not allow him to have two boats at the dock. She said that she felt that there should be a limit of one boat per slip. Ms. Wright agreed, Mr. Roy said that Mr. Garfield's slip location was unique in the Marina, given its low water depth and

terminal location. He said that Mr. Garfield's two boats are not blocking anyone else. However, Mr. Roy noted that if we allowed two boats per slip that could create potential conflicts elsewhere, and establish a difficult precedence. For this reason, Mr. Roy supported Ms. Lynch in her proposed restriction of one boat per slip. Mr. Cataldo agreed.

As part of the Slip Rules, Mr. Roy recommended that we formally limit the size of the dinghies allowed at the Resident Dinghy Float (Seaplane Float) to 13', and require that they be tied only by means of a bow painter, not alongside the float. Mr. Roy observed that there were three (3) permitted slips on the seaplane float: those occupied by Grant Gellette, Lee Lombard, and Charmaine Gahan, and that a portion of the East face must be kept open for seaplanes and access for emergency rescue boats. Mr. Isabel agreed to enforce these rules. Ms. Wright moved to accept the changes to the slip rules as proposed by Mr. Roy, with the addition of the restriction of only one boat per slip. Upon a second by Mr. Cataldo, the motion passed unanimously by those Committee members present and voting. (Mr. Garfield had left the meeting.) Mr. Roy said that he would forward the proposed rule changes to the Selectboard, which officially establishes Town regulations.

**Item 6. (Fuel Farm/Projects Update)** Mr. Milanoski reported that the Town was seeking an equipment grant from USDA, and that notice of award of a CZM grant was expected any day. He said that the Town was continuing to work with DEP to make sure that RM Packer Company also received a Notice of Responsibility for the tank farm spill, and that cleanup would proceed soon.

**Item 7. (Old Business)** The Chair recognized Dix Leeson who said that he has had a slip in the Marina for over 15 years, and that he appreciated the Committee's efforts to clarify the rules. He said that he understood that slips could move and slip assignments changed, and that he had been concerned about the new float for Mr. Lowell, and how that would affect his slip. He said that he appreciated the patience of Dale Lynch and George Isabel in explaining the proposed changes, and that he was comfortable that the new arrangement would work.

**Item 8. (New Business/Public Comment)** Ms. Lynch reported that there was no hot water in the public toilets, on either the Men's or Women's sides. Mr. Roy asked when the hot water stopped working, and Ms. Lynch replied that it hadn't been working all season. Mr. Roy was aghast that she had waited until August 12<sup>th</sup> to tell anyone. He asked Mr. Isabel to look into it. Ms. Lynch said that she thought that the trash pickup and can emptying in the Town Dock area was going well, and wanted to publically say that she thought that Asa and his crew were doing an awesome job. She said that she hoped that all the businesses on the dock would post their hours. She said that people were always asking her, but requested that hours be posted. Finally, Ms. Lynch said that there have been a few instances of people driving down the crowded Fish Dock unnecessarily, which she said caused safety concerns. She asked what the Committee was going to do about it. Mr. Roy asked our Wharfinger, Mr. Isabel, to keep an eye out

for such behavior, and speak to the individual(s) in question if it was warranted. Mr. Isabel agreed to do that.

Ms. Lynch said that the vendors were being asked to get rid of their own trash at the end of the day, but where was it supposed to go? Ms. Wright said that there was now a dumpster at the Transfer Station for that purpose. Gail Blout confirmed that the Selectboard had asked Asa Lombard to locate one outside of the fenced in area, and that it had been done. Mr. Cataldo said that he was glad that Mr. Roy was closing out the terms of our eelgrass agreement. He said that we still had an open permit, and that we should decide whether we wanted to build that additional permitted area of dock. Mr. Roy suggested that we discuss it at our next meeting, and at some point properly close out our Order of Conditions with the Con Com. Conservation Commission Chairman Warr agreed, and suggested that we check the time frame in our permit, as it may have expired. Mr. Roy asked if there was any further public comment. There was none.

**Item 9. (Adjournment)** Chairman Roy proposed that our next meeting be by a hybrid of Zoom conference call and in person meeting at Town Hall on Thursday, September 16, at 10:30am. Ms. Wright moved to adjourn the meeting, and upon a second by Ms. Lynch, the motion was passed unanimously at 11:55am.

#### **TO DO LIST:**

1. Cuttyhunk WiFi to provide service performance metrics.
2. Mr. Roy to write a letter on eelgrass regeneration to the regulatory authorities, once Mr. Garfield performs the survey.
3. Mr. Roy to request the scope and fee proposal from Foth for the marina layout.
4. Mr. Roy to write a letter to the vendors requesting that they bring their trash to the transfer station.
5. Ms. Lynch and Mr. Garfield to talk to Bonnie Veeder about a shared approach to cleaning the picnic tables.
6. Ms. Lynch to refinish the picnic tables at the end of the season.
7. Mr. Cataldo to check status of dock project permits deadline.

Respectfully submitted, Leo Pierre Roy

Approved September 19, 2021