

Waterfront Committee Minutes

Monday August 7, 2000

Present: Donald Jones, Chairman, David Brown, D. Kenniston Cooper, Mark Damon, and William Sutter, Harbormaster

Absent: William Morison, Secretary

Don Jones opened the meeting at 7:10pm. The members introduced themselves including the two newly appointed members. It was noted that Mark Damon was replacing David Sutter as a representative of the fishing community for a full three-year term, and that David Brown was filling out the remaining two years of Bob Ratigan's term. Don Jones was elected Chairman and Bill Morison was reelected Secretary.

In the absence of Secretary Bill Morison and the official minutes, Don Jones and Ken Cooper recapitulated the events of the previous (April 10, 2000) meeting.

Bill Sutter then recommended two publications that he thought would be helpful to the members and offered to see about obtaining them. The Committee agreed. The publications are "The Right Tack" put out by the State Planning Office, and "Harbormaster's Handbook".

Bill Sutter then suggested the following issues for the Committee to address:

1. Revisit the issue of user fees to more equitably share the cost of supporting the waterfront.
2. Consider the proper interpretation of Article IV sec.4.4
3. Problem of lobstermen leaving unidentified retrieved gear on the floats.
4. Problem of lobstermen not properly hosing spilled bait fluids off the town pier.
5. Problem of availability of float space for lobstermen to unload catch in a timely manner when the dealer/buyer is there.
6. Problem of the food vendor taking up too many parking spaces.
7. Suggested establishing a permit fee for lobstermen and other commercial users with implied rights and responsibilities.
8. Reconsider the mast and boom proposal.

Bill further suggested that after the above issues were addressed that the Committee review the reports of the two waterfront workshops for further action items.

The Committee agreed to consider all of the specific issues raised by the Harbormaster. It was decided to take up items 2 and 3 immediately. Items 4,5,7,

and 8 would be addressed at the next meeting. Items 1 and 6 were postponed until some later date.

Discussion ensued on item 2, the question of whether keeping a floating dock tied to a mooring was intended to be prohibited by Art IV, sec.4.4 of the ordinances. Ken Cooper offered the following motion, "It is the opinion of the Waterfront Committee that Art IV, sec.4.4 does not prohibit a float tied to a mooring." The motion was unanimously approved.

The Harbormaster said that he would immediately seek the necessary Army Corps of Engineers approval to put a floating dock on a mooring for the use of the lobstermen.

Don Jones offered the following motion, "The Waterfront Committee recommends to the selectmen that they make one of the currently unused floats available for use by the fishermen." The motion was unanimously approved.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting in one week on August 14 in the Firehouse to discuss items 4,5,7, and 8. Mark recommended that the discussion include the possibility of including the mooring fee in a comprehensive use fee for lobstermen.

Dan Thompson commented as a member of the audience that he was pleased to see the Committee begin to deal with some of the festering issues, but hoped it would eventually be able to tie in to broader issues of comprehensive planning and economic development.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.