

Wiscasset Waterfront Committee
10 September 2024 Meeting Minutes

Prepared by James L. Kochan, Secretary

Present: Chairman Eric Cousineau, Members James Kochan, Harbormaster and Police Chief Larry Hesselstine; Deputy Harbormaster Callie and Select Board Liaison Terry Heller.

Meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM with no quorum.

Old Business:

The failure of certain pier vendors to open and/or staff their businesses in accordance with the Wiscasset Pier policies was discussed. Sage Sicilian Vegetables has failed to open or staff facility and the same is true of the ice cream vendor. The Pottery was open, but unstaffed. (Member David Gagnon and Town Manager Dennis Simmons arrived as these discussions commenced). Dennis said that he would notify Sage and the Ice Cream shop of the violations and request response in meeting town expectations. Discussion ensued as to whether unstaffed opening of the Pottery was in accord with town policies; this will be further investigated.

Minutes of 13 AUG 24 Meeting. Now having a quorum, the meeting minutes were discussed and approved, vote: 3-0.

New Business:

The Town Manager noted that he was working with the Ordinance Review Board in drafting a "Right to Fish" policy similar to that recently adopted by the Town of Harpswell to support commercial fisherman working on the waterfront. A copy of the Harpswell policy was shared with the committee. The committee agreed in principle with the proposed policy and agreed to work with ORB in drafting language for such. Commercial fishing policies and traditions (including worming) were also discussed with regard to the Comprehensive Plan and it was agreed that the Waterfront Committee would reach out to work with the CP committee with regard to waterfront issues in the latter document draft. Jim will reach out to CMP Chair to coordinate.

Working Waterfront Group Report. Selectman Heller asked about the status of the Working Waterfront group. Chairman Cousineau stated that the previous Waterfront Chair, Susan Robson had been working closely with the Working Group Chair David Stapp (Peregrine Turbine) and he would touch bases with both parties to see where things stood and whether they group was still active and/or had produced a report, as once promised.

Harbormaster Report:

There was a harassment incident relating to a mooring that is under investigation.

There are issues concerning space and placement of worm carts and lobster crates and floats on the commercial pier, notably 40 crates recently placed there relating to green crab harvesting by a waterman, who is currently violating pier policy and not paying commercial fees. The Harbormaster will be meeting with you to discuss how to best handle this situation and bring the green crab harvesting project in compliance with waterfront mooring and commercial pier policies.

Moorings and Moring Plan.

The Harbormaster reported that 2 unauthorized moorings were moved and a third will likely be removed. He noted that a number of moorings were not currently registered. Online registration of moorings was discussed. GPS mapping of the mooring field was discussed, as well as a grid system for moorings for the harbor. Until such time as a grid system and solid GPS mapping is established, there are still problems with mooring placement and locating, partly due to a limited number of mooring installers. The Harbormaster reported that 3-5 ghost moorings are left in the harbor. Mooring renewals will go out in January, with are due by May 1st.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05.