

Steve Harding

Harbors Committee

February 11, 2018

Steve,

Here is a response to your email concerning hiring of past Harbor Masters and the recent agreement with Scarborough with the shared Harbor Master.

Previous to my being named the Chief of Police the Harbor Master was a local person who conducted business with very little supervision and little documentation of transactions.

The Department then hired a Harbor Master who brought the standards into shape and started keeping logs of moorings and transactions. This was a vast improvement, however the stipend was very little and unfortunately there was no Town owned boat for the Harbor Master to utilize. This Harbor Master used his own boat if one was needed, which I believe was a risky practice.

When this Harbor Master retired another person was hired, but he did not live in Town. Again, there was no boat for the Harbor Master to use, which made things very difficult for him to complete his job.

In 2016 a contract was signed with the Town of Scarborough, which would allow us to share their Harbor Master. At that time Scarborough was in the midst of hiring a new Harbor Master and during interviews the candidates were told that they would be handling calls for Cape Elizabeth as well.

Per contract the Harbor Master was set at a threshold of about 130 hours for Cape Elizabeth with the Police Administration assisting in the paperwork duties.

Even though I don't believe we are close to the 130 hours of use it is comforting knowing we have a trained full time Harbor Master. This Harbor Master is also a certified Full Time Law Enforcement Officer with arrest powers through the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. He has access to several boats, which are always in the water during habitable parts of the year. He is fully trained in marine laws and has the contact information with others in the marine field should something serious happen in Cape Elizabeth. Lastly, Scarborough provides the Harbor Master with an equipped vehicle to respond to calls.

I feel this shared Harbor Master agreement is currently the best arrangement for Cape Elizabeth at this time. In the future should the work load become too much where Scarborough does not choose to stay in the agreement then the Town should be prepared to offer an equitable stipend along with providing a least a boat, training, equipment, and a facility to moor the boat during working months.

Sincerely,



Chief Neil R. Williams

Cape Elizabeth Police Department