

TOWN OF CAPE ELIZABETH HARBORS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2018

Present: Chair James Casey (JC), Stephen Culver (SC), Caitlin Jordan (CJ), and Susan Farady (SF)

Absent: Katharine Ray (KR)

Staff: Town Engineer Stephen Harding (SH)

Public: Nate Perry (NP)

Call to Order: Chair Jim Casey called the meeting to order at 6:21 p.m. with a roll call in which Committee Members JC, SC, and SF were present at that time.

Reports and Correspondence: The Committee had been provided in their meeting packets information which included:

1. Draft February 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes
2. Maine Inland Fish & Wildlife Primary Map 2 High Value Plant & Animal Habitats for the Town of Cape Elizabeth
3. February 11, 2018 letter regarding the Harbormaster Position as provided by Police Chief Neil Williams
4. Inventory of 2017 mooring locations and historical beach pass records as provided by Police Chief Neil Williams
5. February 16, 2018 3rd Draft of the Committee Report, tracked changes and clean versions
6. February 20, 2018 1st Draft Comp Plan Marine Resources Section
7. February 21, 2018 letter from resident Anne Carney regarding draft report recommendations for Kettle Cove/Crescent Beach
8. January 30, 2018 letter from Harbormaster Ian Anderson of CEFA recommendations

Citizen Opportunity for Public Comment:

- No comments were received at this time.

Meeting Minutes: The February 6, 2018 meeting minutes were then approved as written (4 Yes, 0 No, and 1 absent).

Update on status of DMR Licensure request

- SF reported that the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) had not responded to her request for additional data from years other than the 2016 licensure information already received. The group then reviewed the possibility of whether any additional information could be expected from DMR. SF read the

DMR response process to municipal comprehensive plan support and, although the Town of Cape Elizabeth could request more information in May of 2018, it was apparent that the prospects were not good for getting more DMR information within the Harbors Committee's timeframe. The Committee decided to formulate the 2016 data and compare it against the 2006 DMR information from the 2007 Comprehensive Plan. SH was directed to resend the 2016 information to CJ for her to organize and provide to the group.

- Now that the weather is now improving, JC raised the issue of mapping the mooring locations with Ian Anderson (IA), the Town Harbormaster. NP and SH are to attempt to contact IA to arrange for a date to go onto the water and locate the moorings.

Review of the 3rd Draft of the Harbors Committee Report

- The Committee then reviewed the most recent draft version of the Committee Report dated February 16th. SH reviewed the organization of the report and the group suggested changes and locations within the report for additional information. SF suggested including a reference to UNE Student Madison Whatley's presentation which spurred the Committee to conduct the public survey. SF also suggested that Madison's 5-page summary of her paper be included as an appendix attachment to the report.
- The Committee made several corrections to the draft and also noted the following points.
- JC felt that the 2017 mooring permit information seems to be low in comparison to the 2006 data from the 2007 Comprehensive Plan. He suggested that SH contact Police Chief Williams to determine if this information was accurate.
- The Committee then discussed the apparent excess in mooring space at Kettle Cove and Maiden Cove where there are reported waiting lists. CJ clarified that the mooring waiting list was for specific mooring locations and not overall areas. The group also discussed that specific boats may have needs that the overall fleet wouldn't have due to the size and type of the boat.
- In discussing moorings, SF noted that the Town's website is woefully behind on updating the mooring information and does not have any mooring maps. CJ explained that a previous Harbormaster had gathered mooring information and had it placed on the website. After he left the position, the website materials have gotten outdated and the mooring maps were removed. The Committee discussed this situation and decided that a recommendation should be made in their report to update the mooring section of the website and to upload mooring maps.
- SH noted that he was having difficulty determine the size of the Crescent Beach property limits as the State leases some land from the abutting Sprague Corporation. It was suggested that SH contact the State of Maine's Kurt Shoener and Gary Best to get this information.

Review of the 1st Draft of the Comprehensive Plan Marine Resources Section

- The Committee then discussed the draft of the Comprehensive Plan Marine Resources section. It was determined that SH would continue to gather and refine information for the draft and provide a 2nd draft for the Committee to review.

- The group discussed the information required by the State for the Comprehensive Plan that was provided to the Committee by Town Planner Maureen O'Meara. Maureen also highlighted the specific needs for the marine resources section and SH has copied these needs at the end of the draft section.
- In response to a question from SH, NP responded that the shellfish areas in Cape Elizabeth are actually closer to the Spurwink River and the Town of Scarborough is more involved in that aspect as the active areas are more on the Scarborough side of the river.
- In response to a State requirement regarding comments on dredging needs, the group discussed that Cape Elizabeth does not have any channels to be dredged so dredging would not be a need of the community. SH will add a comment to the report to address the dredging question.

Other Items not on the Agenda

- SH noted that he has spoken to Town Manager Matt Sturgis about applying for grants to further the Kettle Cove area improvements. SH shared a February 26th email from Matt which read *"The grant that I am planning to apply for is the Maine Coastal Program grant, which helps provide funding for planning for public access. This application process is estimated to open in April or May, depending in part on NOAA funding (which is at some risk in the current federal budget). I am on the contact list for the program administrator, and he was enthusiastic about the concept after I spoke with him. I will send you updates as I know more"*. The Committee was pleased with this news. SH noted that Matt is also tracking another grant program which would provide funds for physically relocating the public access location.
- JC raised the issue of completing the report and the draft marine resources section within the March 31st deadline. The group decided to request a one-month extension to April 30th. In doing so, the mooring mapping would be able to be provided with the report and not need to be added as a later supplement. SH will follow up with Town Manager Matt Sturgis and request the extension.

Public Comment:

- NP inquired as to where the permanent easement at Boat Cove stood. The group discussed that the public access easement would be the priority to get resolved with the State so that the public access could be moved. Then the Boat Cove easement, which is considered to be a longer term item that would likely take a considerable time to process with through the State, could be pursued. The Committee noted that this item is one of the report's Kettle Cove improvement recommendations.
- SH stated that he has spoken to the Town Manager Matt Sturgis about his letter to the State of Maine's Ron Hunt which would start the easement process. To date, Matt has received no response so he was going to reach out to Mr. Hunt again in an attempt to move this issue forward.

Next Meeting: The next Harbors Committee regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 6:15 P.M. in the Lower Conference Room at Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen D. Harding, P.E.
Town Engineer

DRAFT