



## Town of Southwest Harbor Harbor Committee 1/8/2024

### **Attendance**

**Committee members:** Anne Napier, Donald Sullivan, Nick Madeira, John Stanley, Mike Brzezowski, Josh Ray, Corey Pettegrow, Justin Snyder

**Excused Absences:** Ron Weiner

**Unexcused Absences:** None

**Harbor Master:** Jarod Kushla

**Selectboard Liaison:** Luke Damon

### **Motions During Meeting**

- **Motion by Anne:** Approve 12-04-2023 minutes (John Seconded) (8:0)
- **Motioned by Anne:** Table the Churchman float project until we get feedback from the two mooring owners and a scale projection of the new dock on a satellite image. (Core Seconded) (7:0 Donald Sullivan Abstained)
- **Motioned by Josh:** Move forward on purchasing a new ramp with bait slide. (Donald Seconded) (8:0)
- **Motioned by Corey:** To proceed in purchasing and installing a second, matching hoist at Manset. (John Seconded) (8:0)
- **Motioned by Corey:** Motion to adjourn. (John Seconded)

### **I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

A. 6:04pm

**II. Visitors to be heard not on the agenda**

A. 1/23/2024 - Selectboard meeting that will address ... ?

**III. Approval of Minutes-12-04-2023**

A. Approved

**IV. Cap on Harbor Users- Discussion**

A. Public comments

1. No federal money comes into the harbor
2. State money for projects often requires access to our facilities, so be wary.
3. Worry that a cap would stop new, local user (ex: a fisherman's son who buys land and moves back to SWH)
4. Why don't we install another hoist to increase capacity?
5. Hoist in Manset has been leaking oil for two years and not all may be working at the moment.
6. Some people said they didn't think there was a problem for capacity.
7. Who is going to police this all? (Nick: Our harbor master)
8. The lobster market is falling and the committee's projected usage seems high.
9. A lot of the MDI boat were former RDR boats (large boats) from Lamoine.
10. The value of the harbor is more than the fees collected.
11. A new hoist would be probably \$12-15,000.
12. Currently 35-40 commercial permits, but not all those fishing have paid for permits.

B. Committee Comments

1. Donald Sullivan

a) We are still not collecting a lot of fees that should be

2. John Stanley

a) Stonington: capped only by parking and dinghy permits

b) There will be more pressure now on the town docks after the closure of MDI Lobster.

c) If users do not pay fees or follow rules they should not be allowed to use the facilities.

d) Stonington rules are that traps leave the boat and head right to a truck or trailer.

3. Ann Napier

a) Residents should have priorities over non-residents (both commercial and recreational)

4. Justin Snyder

a) Must explain to the public the goals of the new regulations if they are created.

5. Mike Brzezowski

a) Last discussion about a cap the idea of not limiting residents usage, but capping non-resident usage.

C. Luke Damon

1. 2022, Harbor brought in \$106K and cost \$123K.

2. Harbor is not bringing in a surplus over its costs.

D. Harbor Master

1. Change in resident definition alone represents \$30,000 extra in fees.

V. **Community Sailing**

- A. Glenn Squires
- B. No funding from the town
- C. Has 10 moorings
- D. Under current ordinance, can they drop and pickup students at the town docks?
  - 1. Corey and Nick believe that they can as a non-profit
- E. Purchased some land if needed, but it is not in a desirable location
  - 1. Committee recommended the use of the uppertown dock
    - a) Glenn: Uppertown dock would be difficult logistics
- F. Community Sailing loves their current location and want to continue there as long as possible.

**VI. Churchman float project- tabled from 12-04-23**

- A. Called Mr. Churchman on speakerphone
- B. Two possible moorings that could be encroached upon
- C. Looking to and a 14'x40' float this year and next year another 12' bridge. Total extension for year 2 will be 52'
- D. Mooring owners have not been contacted (Klines and Phoebe Barnes).
- E. Committee Question - Why?
  - 1. Room for his boat and his friends' boats
- F. Anne's concern: the precedent of increasing dock space and moving moorings to accommodate dock space. How many moorings on our proposed mooring plan will be eliminated by this extension?
- G. Jarod - Harbormaster: Not yet sure if he can move the moorings.

**VII. Harbor Master Report**

**A. Winter Hours**

- 1. 7am-3pm M & W, 7-12 Fridays
- 2. May 1st should be full-time again

## **B. Facilities:**

1. The new office has been delivered and electrical has been connected. Waiting on install of heat pump to fully move in. Once that is installed, I will contact HG Reed to start working on plumping. Cameras and phone/voicemail have been reconnected. Connectivity Works cleanly ran camera line, cable line, and radio antenna line through building into office area. I am slowly setting the office up to be ready for the summer. I want to ensure the best possible layout for the space and have been placing furniture in different places to test out the arrangement.
2. Lower Town Dock: Outer float has been removed for the season. The third float will also be removed to try and repair.
3. Shifting Lower Town Dock dinghy floats is on my worklist. Waited until season slowed down due to having to pull decking boards off to mount hardware. Did not want to interfere with dinghy dock use while reconfiguring the docks.
4. Online Mooring profile updated to reflect the current definition of Resident. Also updated all the permits to reflect if they are residents with the new definition.

## **C. Fee Schedule:**

1. Waiting List Fee approved in Nov election. Request recommendation for fee amount. My initial thought was \$10 flat fee no matter which list and regardless of resident status.
2. Mooring Ball Rental: Recommend raising fee to \$40/night from \$35. This would greatly reduce the need for the Harbormaster to carry change in the office.

3. Recommend eliminating recreational ramp fee. There is no collection box at LTD ramp. Revenue could be offset by increasing Mooring Ball Rental Fee.
4. Requested quotes from Chalmers:
  - a) Aluminum bridge or small finger float to accommodate shifting Upper Town Dock outer floats to the outboard side of the existing pilings.
  - b) New ramp for Lower Town Dock like the one John Stanley photographed at Bartlet's Landing
5. Questions regarding MDI Lobster closing:
  - a) Is there any information that shows how many fishermen used MDI Lobster for business?
  - b) Are there any talks in town about another fishing-related business going in to replace MDI?
  - c) What services did MDI offer to commercial fishermen?

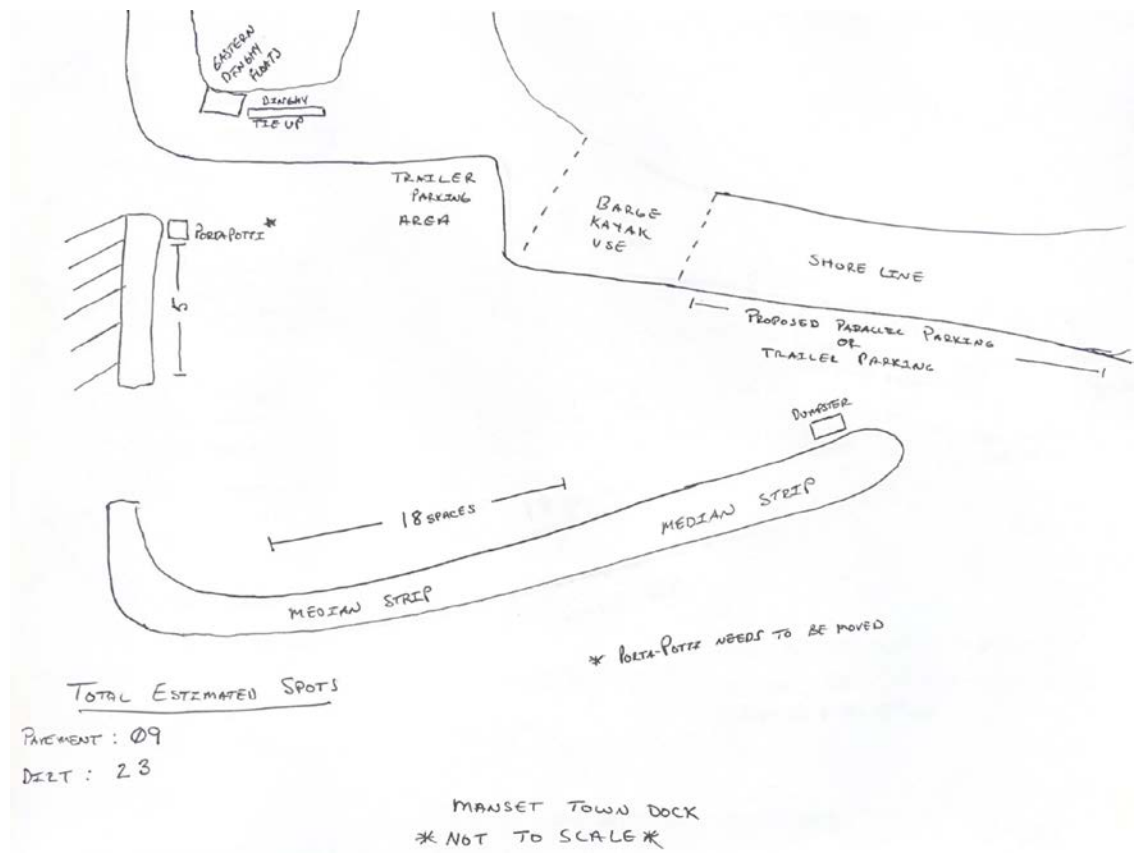
D. Committee agreed to change the mooring fee to \$40 from \$35 per night, add a \$10 per year waitlist mooring fee, and eliminate the recreational ramp fee.

#### **VIII. Manset Dock**

- A. Meeting this Wednesday with Noel Musson, Nick Madeira, and Marilyn Lowell about next steps for expanding the parking lot.
- B. Working on price estimates.

#### **IX. Parking plan for town dock facilities**

A. Diagram ([See full size image](#))



B.

X. **Allocation of Harbor fees - Numbers**

A. 2022, Harbor brought in \$106K and cost \$123K.

XI. **Harbor Master office update**

A.

XII. **Comments from the Committee**

A.

XIII. **Suggestions for Next Meeting -**

A. Review list of who paid commercial fees and add those who should have, but did not plus those who are paying as a resident even though they are not a resident.

B. Next meeting, Feb 5, 2024

**XIV. Adjournment**

A. Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm