



Town of Southwest Harbor  
Harbor Committee  
3/4/2024

**Attendance**

**Committee members:** Anne Napier, Donald Sullivan, Nick Madeira, Mike Brzezowski, Josh Ray, Corey Pettegrow, Billy Norwood, Ron Weiner

**Absences:** John Stanley, Justin Snyder

**Harbor Master:** Absent

**Selectboard Liaison:** Luke Damon

**Motions During Meeting**

- **Motion by Corey:** Approve 2-05-2024 minutes (Anne Seconded) (The 7:0 (Ron abstained))
- **Motioned by Corey:** Recommend to Marilyn that the harbor master 1) randomly checks barge touches via camera footage to compare to reported touches, 2) that this is done for one day of records monthly, and 3) that this random check's data is included in the harbor master report. (Billy Seconded) (8:0)
- **Motioned by Mike:** Motioned that a fine of \$1,000 plus the cost of the harbor master's time to investigate the underreporting is added for those who are underreporting the number of touches by 10% or more. A second

offense within 12 months of the first offense would result in loss of harbor privileges for a 12 month period from the date of the discovery of the second offense.. (Billy seconded) (8:0)

- **Motioned by Ron:** That the town manager requires that the harbor master submits his monthly report about the previous month's activities to the harbor committee one week prior to the monthly harbor committee meeting. (Corey Seconded) (8:0)
- **Motioned by Anne:** Motion that the town research grants for the improvement and development of town waterfront facilities, docks, etc. and the potential to purchase property around the harbor. Research should include whether or not grants would require the town to change their cruise ship ordinances. The town should submit summaries of research to the harbor committee in a timely fashion that allows the harbor committee to act on the grants. (Mike Seconded (7:1))
- **Motioned by Corey:** Motion to adjourn. (Billy Seconded)

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

A. 6:04pm

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

A. None

**III. Approval of Minutes-2-05-2024**

A. Approved

**IV. Manset Dock - w/ Noel Musson**

A. Unable to attend

**V. Harbor Master Report**

A. None

B. Lower town dock hoist does not work with remote.

C. Manset dock hoist - wire is too short.

**VI. Cap on Commercial Harbor Users' Discussion - Audit of users**

- A. How many are currently using it and what is our capacity?
- B. Corey rough estimates = 20-30 local fisherman who will need to be using our docks this year.
- C. Currently 32 fisherman have commercial permits to use our docks and committee members believe there are up to 15 users regularly using the dock without paying for a permit.
- D. Billie: Parking. Suggest priority parking for fisherman currently using the town docks.
- E. Luke Damon has tried to get information from the owner of the MDI Lobster property through intermediaries. She is hoping to find someone to run the dock again.
- F. Donnie: Suggests priority to Southwest Harbor fisherman and those with established moorings in Southwest Harbor.
- G. Using an estimate of a maximum of 65 commercial fishing users for the town's docks
- H. Current estimate of users
  - 1. 2023 Commercial Permits = 37 (*at least 7 are non-resident*)
  - 2. Estimated of 25 from MDI Lobster
- I. Harbor Committee Homework = How many boats are regularly using the harbor to sell lobsters who either do not pay a commercial fee or were using MDI Lobster.
- J. Signage: Need parking and use signs updated for town docks (Lower town and Manset are the most important to update)
  - 1. There is no enforcement of the parking designations.
  - 2. Coast Guard parking at the lower town dock has been a continual problem.

- a) Ron: Recommends requesting that the harbormaster has a discussion with the Coast Guard.
- b) Public suggestion: Taking photos of parking violators with plate numbers to send to the Coast Guard.

K. Corey: Making it clear that one permit is for one vehicle (a note and/or a sticker with a hanger for the rear view mirror. It can be moved between vehicles, but it can only be used once at a time.)

## **VII. Touch Fee**

- A. Boat transportation companies are not paying a proper share of fees. Should we make them pay a touch fee even if lower than barges.
  - 1. When launching a boat, a large boat trailer and boom truck take up space in the lot. They launch and use the dock for setting masts, then use the dock to work on boat prep.
  - 2. They currently pay a flat fee of \$1,100 for a resident, unlimited.
- B. Recommend to Marilyn that the harbor master 1) randomly checks barge touches via camera footage to compare to reported touches, 2) that this is done for one day of records monthly, and 3) that this random check's data is included in the harbor master report.
  - 1. Are the touch fee records submitted by day? If not, we recommend they submit a form with the number of touches per day for the month.
- C. Mike motions that a fine is added for those who are significantly underreporting the number of touches that more than covers the costs of the harbor master's time.
- D. Amended motion, that a fine of \$1,000 plus the cost of the harbor master's time to investigate the underreporting is added for those who are underreporting the number of touches by 10% or more. A second

offense within 12 months of the first offense would result in loss of harbor privileges for a 12 month period from the date of the discovery of the second offense.

- E. Tabled the idea of touch fee for transportation companies because:
1. We need to research how many touches we have and what fee would need to be charged to keep the same revenue and use that to decide what the fee should be. There is a worry that too low of a touch fee would actually decrease total revenue.
  2. We need to dial in the touch fee recording and paying with barges before expanding per touch fees.

### **VIII. Request from Selectboard**

- A. Climate to Thrive offer to present
- B. How can we generate more revenue from the harbor?
1. Pleasure boat business into town.
  2. From Harbor Committee
    - a) Upper town dock changes will give more access.
    - b) Make sure that changes and suggestions for where pleasure boats should land are on our website and published to cruising guides.
    - c) Some felt that our harbor is too busy already.

### **IX. Comments from the Committee**

- A. Ron wanted to motion that the town manager require a harbor master report to be submitted to the harbor committee with enough time to review before monthly meetings.
- B. Anne presented possible ideas and grants for the MDI Lobster property.
- C. Corey talked about a possible lobster coop.

D. The committee requests that Caroline investigates grants to help with harbor projects.

E. The committee also requests that the harbor master puts out dock and mooring work to bid from multiple contractors.

**X. Suggestions for Next Meeting -**

A.

**XI. Adjournment**

A. Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm