



Town of Southwest Harbor Harbor Committee

November 13th, 2017 at 6:30pm

Attendance

Committee members: Corey Pettegrow, Brian Walls, Anne Napier, John Stanley

Excused Absences: Joel Harper, Nick Madeira, Andy Mays

Unexcused Absences:

Harbor Master: Adam Thurston

Selectmen: Lydia Goetze

Public:

I. Call to Order / Role Call

Joel, Nick, and Andy have excused absences.

II. Acceptance of Minutes

Brian made motion to accept minutes of July 2017.

Corey seconded.

Vote (3-0-1)

John Abstained, he was not a member at the last meeting.

III. Visitors to be Heard

None

IV. Ordinance Review Cruise Ships

The harbormaster put some information together about cruise ship regulations. Bar Harbor controls where ships anchor, and where passengers come on and off. They also define a cruise ship as a passenger vessel that has overnight accommodations for 49 people or more. Corey stated that we should stick with the 49 passenger limit as opposed to 50.

Vessels like the Vagabond and the Cranberry Island ferry may be capable of carrying more passengers but they do not provide overnight stays on the vessel.

John asked if the Army Core could prevent us from stopping cruise ships because we have a federally funded dredge area. The harbor master stated that because none of our docks are Army Core funded that we were able to control them through the ordinance. You are able to restrict particular uses in project areas, but you cannot allow residents priority over nonresidents. If you shut an activity down you must restrict it for both.

The committee does not think it is a good idea to generate channels for incoming large vessels at this time. Corey said that it would be seen as an invitation to come in. Lydia asked if we should limit all vessels coming into the harbor. Vessels will be limited in



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draft and turning radius. Private ships do damage lobster gear but not in the mass quantities that cruise ships do.

John stated that we need to focus on whether we can limit private piers as well as public docks.

The committee asked what the other towns are doing to prevent cruise ships. The harbormaster stated that Northeast Harbor had a fee structure for cruise ship in its ordinance but it was never used. NEH took the fee out of their ordinance. They did not change the ordinance or create a moratorium. Bass Harbor has a current moratorium and is looking to change their harbor ordinance and get the planning board involved.

Ann stated that we are looking at a three prong approach. One step is to get an update on what surrounding towns are doing. We also need to get the planning board involved so they can come up with language for private land and pier rules. Another step would be to consult with a marine attorney to see what we can and cant do.

V. **Lower Town Hydraulic Hoist**

The harbor master brought a handout for some preliminary pricing for a hydraulic hoist at the lower town dock. The new motor will be able to lift more weight than the current electric motor. Many of the fisherman using the hoist are trying to lift 500 lb. barrels of bait onto their boats. The current limit for the hoist is 300 lbs.

Corey made a motion to switch to hydraulic hoist at lower town dock, and change Manset to hydraulic in the near future.

Ann seconded.

Vote (4-0)

VI. **Ellis Boat Float Extension Proposal**

Ellis Boat has proposed building a new 24 foot bridge for the floats they lease every year. This would be double the length of the existing bridge, and it would make the east floats extend another 12 feet out. John stated that the harbormaster should talk to the barge operators and see what they think about the proposal. It could make it more difficult to turn the barge around.

John made a motion to recommend accepting Ellis Boats bridge for the Manset east floats as long as the barge operators do not have a problem with it.

Vote (4-0)



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VII. Comments for the good of the committee

Corey wanted to know if the position of the ladder at Manset dock could be changed to make it safer when selling lobsters. The ladder could be moved to the north side of the hoist so that you do not have the large lobster truck in the way of getting on the pier. The harbormaster is planning on changing out the hoist pole at Manset and the ladder could be moved at the same time.

VIII. Suggestions for

Cruise ship ordinance

IX. Adjournment

John made motion to adjourn.

Corey seconded.

Vote (4-0)