

Meeting of Harbor Committee
February 16, 2015



Present: Secretary Cabot Trott. Lori Howell, David Emery. Charles Rankie, Grant Hirst, Selectman Liaison and Deputy Harbor Master, Tom Phillips. Members absent: Ben Brickett, Lee Emery, Doug Anderson. Mr. Trott served as Chair for the evening.

The meeting was convened at 6:05. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Mr. Rankie and Ms. Howell as voting members. Motion passed.

Mr. Rankie pointed out that we are a commission of 5 members; therefore anyone viewing on TV will see very few faces due to several members' absences. He reminded that a quorum is 3 members.

With regard to the Minutes of January 19, 2015: Mr. Rankie moved to hold acceptance of minutes until next meeting. This would also allow others who are absent to review. Moved and seconded by Emery. Motion passes.

Discussion regarding manner of distribution of minutes. Mr. Rankie offered to send out minutes when the Administrative Secretary is unavailable.

Deputy Harbor Master Phillips reported that he and the Harbor Master are doing a few "dry runs" to make sure that the mooring registration software works. It was asked what the status of the harbor map is. Mr. Phillips reported that he did not know. It was asked if the Harbor Master could inquire about status prior to next meeting.

Two members volunteered to register moorings and boats ahead of time. Mr. Hirst asked how it would appear to the public if commission members registered early. It was suggested that this would be a dry run. It was also pointed out that there was no advantage since these members would simply be renewing their moorings. The members present decided not to undertake an early registration, actual or practice.

Mr. David Emery asked if there has been any discussion with Town Clerk to make sure that there are copies of the Mooring Application available at Town Hall. Also, who does Town Manager want the GIS mapping to include moorings to go to.

Question about Harbor Master budget. Mr. Hirst commented that the Harbor Master's presentation to the selectmen had been cancelled due to winter storms.

Motion and second to table further ordinance review in the hopes that there would be more members present. Motion passed.

New Business: The Commission Chair, Ben Brickett is working on the Town Report. Mr. Hirst stated that the report is due in early April. The commission discussed what should be in the

report. Suggested that the Chair to bring a draft Town Report to the next meeting so that we can discuss and approve. Mentioned that the report is an opportunity to advise the public of how the Harbor Commission and the Harbor Master interface. Mr. Trott will discuss with the Chair so that the Chair has the opportunity to ask for help or suggestions. It was noted that the Harbor Master would also be preparing a Town Report. This will be under unfinished business next month.

Excise tax: Mr. Trott discussed the collection of excise taxes with the Town Clerk. Ms. Rawski prefers not to get into filing liens due to the cost and time involved. She will write a memo about how the Clerk's office will like to move forward. Collection of excise tax is really only an issue with the commercial rental moorings. The commission asked Mr. Phillips to look into what the time limit is before excise tax payment becomes a requirement. Ms. Howell asked how many boats this is a problem with. The Deputy Harbor Master, and Mr. Trott agreed that there was just one delinquent. This situation is with a commercial rental. There is a significant disagreement with the vessel owner. He has been advised by the Harbor Master as well as the Town Clerk, and the owner still disagrees. The Town Clerk or Town Manager will be attending and agree to discuss this at a future meeting.

Authority of the Harbor Master: Do they have the power and authority to write summons. The committee identified the section of the Harbor Ordinance (Section 17) as the one in which this would be addressed. This discussion was not continued as the Commission voted not to undertake further revisions to the Ordinance.

Mr. Trott raised the idea of a "bulletin board" of moorings available on a temporary basis. If we want to develop this, we should ask the Town Clerk how we could put this on the website. Mr. Rankie pointed out that we should memorialize that the Harbor Master have discretion for shorter term, more informal temporary assignments as well as longer term formal temporary assignments. Mr. Trott will ask the Town Clerk if she can attend the March 16th meeting.

Mr. Rankie made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Howell. Adjourned at 7:25.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Cabot Trott', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

B. Cabot Trott
Secretary Eliot Harbor Commission