

Rockport Harbor Advisory Committee Minutes  
Meeting, April 16, 2014 at 5PM  
Rockport Library

Present: Chairman Montello; Chris Murch, Fred Hillier, Kevin Carrigan, Phil Crotty, Steve Fritch  
Absent: Dana Jorgensson; Larry Stepenuck  
Also present: Harbormasters Rosemary Lewsch and Scott Story  
Visitors: Toby Arsenian; Zenas Seppala

Chairman Montello greeted all and opened the meeting at 5PM. He noted that Zeppala was taping the meeting for Stepenuck.

Chairman made a motion to accept the minutes for the HAC meeting of March 19, 2014. Motion seconded by Murch. All present voted aye.

Chairman turned to the agenda. He said Hillier had called him and requested to add to the agenda the first item regarding preservation of commercial fisherman harbor space and moorings. However Hillier was not present yet, so he turned to the second agenda item regarding meeting date and time to accompany all members and the harbormasters. It was decided that the HAC meetings will be held on a Monday or other suitable day of the month, and he will check and advise. Next meeting to be held at the Firehouse Trust in May.

Hillier entered the meeting. He read a statement (attached.)

HM Story responded to the statement that to keep the mooring after absenting it for one year or perhaps two for medical or other valid reasons the fisherman must have THEIR boat at the mooring for thirty days per year and it must be a boat of similar size to the previous one—not a skiff for example. He also said the HM's try to put a smaller boat on a smaller mooring space. The Chairman said he has seen the HM's handle the situations. Carrigan asked if there is a separate fisherman waiting list. HM Story replied no—one list—but commercial fishermen get some preference. Chariman asked for and received some examples. Carrigan said he had heard that if someone gets a commercials fishing license, he goes to the head of the list. HM Story said no, he will just get a bit of attention—to the extent the HM's can exercise discretion. Hillier had a list of eight boats that lost or are waiting for commercial moorings. HM Story asked for the names and a discussion followed, including mention of Ketchoupolis and Sullivan. HM Story reported on each one and how the HM's had juggled moorings. Discussion followed about mooring sizes and the list. Hillier said there are only two commercial fishermen at Granite pier, and he does not know about Rockport Harbor basin and that will have to wait for Stepenuck next month. Hillier asked why siblings and children cannot retain one's mooring and HM Lesch answered that the Army Corps limits transfers to spouses only. Hiller asked when that happened and the HM's answered when Rockport had the Army Corps dredge the harbor. Hillier brought up about dredging private property, but the HM's pointed out that happened long ago and is not relevant. HM Story reported the HM's are working on the North Basin and Hauliday is leaving, not having moved in five years. Chairman said the discussion will continue next month and in

meantime Hillier might go to HM's on Thursday night and gather more information regarding the Army Corps.

Arsenian asked if he could ask a question. Chairman agreed and Arsenian brought up the Tool Company project at Pigeon Cove. He asked how many moorings will be lost. HM Lesch responded none. HM Story added that the mooring field is compressed now and there will be a problem when winds blow. Arsenian brought up the subject of public benefit. HM Story addressed the problem of transient dockage in Rockport Harbor at this time when winds blow the wrong way, and pointed out the situation in Pigeon Cove will be as bad or worse, and that they the harbor masters are responsible for safety. Discussion followed about no ramp to remove boats quickly (Chairman question), dockage fees, and the revenue brought in to the town. HM Lesch added that the Tool Co. proposed 400' long dock will be a problem, and that there is no provision for fuel. HM Story said he agrees with Arsenian on this one. Seppala spoke up and said he wanted to make sure he had the information right and that the harbor masters do not want the 400' dock. HM Story said yes, not at this time anyway. HM Story said the Tool Co. plans to have a dockmaster and will never give the dock to the town anyway. HM Story said it is not safe location. Arsenian brought up the Rockport Town Meeting on the Tool Co. last week on April 8<sup>th</sup> and said the BOS did not ask for nor receive current plans. He suggested the HAC and the HM's request such plans. Some discussion about the DEP approval and staffing. Carrigan asked if HAC can get the plans.

Hillier asked to return to subject of Pigeon Cove and moorings, which he had brought up earlier. He reported that one problem boat had been moved after much prodding. Discussion followed about calling in the police, next year no boats stored on the pier. Chairman thanked Hillier.

Chairman briefed committee and HM's on the HAC presentation before the BOS the previous night, April 15<sup>th</sup>, regarding the Granite Pier Extension feasibility study. Three members attended: Chairman, Crotty, Jorgenson. He had brought up the subject of direct funding by the town for the feasibility study and that remains for a later day. Right now status quo until CPC committee decision, and if negative, will ask BOS for the money. Crotty added that BOS gave green light for CPC application.

Carrigan asked when is float day and HM's answered end of April.

Discussion about light at end of Bearskin Neck; and status of work on Rockport breakwater (Fall 2014); and Pigeon Coe (town approved the money at pring meeting.)

Crotty said from his personal standpoint he does not favor minor objections to the Tool Co. project, and project should get moving for good of town, except for HM's safety concerns that must be addressed. Arsenian said he not eager for project and developer will have to go along with town requirements to get his money out and will never abandon project. Crotty expressed his opinion otherwise. Seppala said that is the only business commercial district left in town.

Chairman made motion ot adjourn; seconded by Hillier; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

April 14, 2014

I have fished out of Pigeon Cove Harbor for about 60 years. When I first started in the early 50's most of Rockport Harbor were mostly commercial fishermen. Over the years the commercial fleet has diminished.

Now the commercial fishermen are mostly in Pigeon Cove and Rockport Harbor north basin. I fear that the commercial fishermen is slowly being eliminated from our harbors.

Granted it is a mixture of both commercial & recreational boats. I would hope that any time a commercial boat is sold or the ex owner retires that mooring would go to the next person on the list of commercial fishermen waiting list.

I would also like to clarify the so called 30 day term per year to hold a mooring. How many years can this be done - what kind of boat can be used to hold a mooring - must the boat be powered or can you use a float.

Fred C. Hillier

List of boats that have left  
Regon Cove Harbor in the last 7 or 8 years

V. Ketch upoloo	46'	dragger
G. Rose	40'	lobster
J. Halmer	36'	"
V. Ketch	28'	Lobster
T. Sullivan	32'	"
Pl. Tollison	35'	Lobster
P. Prybuck	20'	"
J. Knottou	20'	Lobster

Have any of these moorings been removed  
and if so why not?

