

Rockport Harbor Advisory Committee Minutes of Regular Meeting
May 21, 2014 at 6PM at Firehouse Trust Building

Present: Chairman Montello; Fred Hillier, Chris Murch, Kevin Carrigan, Larry Stepenuck, Phil Crotty, Steve Fritch; Absent: Dana Jorgensson

Also present: Harbormasters Rosemary Lesch and Scott Story

Chairman Montello opened meeting at 6:18 PM. He asked Secretary Crotty to call for motion to approve minutes of April 16, 2014 meeting; motion made by Chairman Montello, seconded by Fred Hillier, all ayes, no nays. Motion passed 7-0.

Chairman asked Crotty to update committee on proposed Granite Pier extension. Crotty advised only update has to do with Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) potential interest in the project. He reminded the members they had received all pertinent information together with the draft April 2014 minutes as well as Crotty's memo, e-mail, and attachments following his phone call to the ACOE. Crotty distributed and then reviewed the ACOE's process chart for such projects. He said he found the chart hard to follow and reviewed it with his own points of explanation. The first step is a no-cost appraisal or "recon" to be performed by the ACOE if the Board of Selectmen send a letter to ACOE. Crotty stated that two of Rockport's three harbors, specifically Rockport Harbor and Pigeon Cove, are already under ACOE jurisdiction. Crotty also pointed out that ACOE pays the cost of maintenance on harbors under its jurisdiction, like the present repairs set for Bearskin Neck. He mentioned he had been at the April Town Meeting and \$150,000 of Rockport taxpayer money had been approved for Granite Pier revetment repairs, which might be avoided if the ACOE had jurisdiction over Granite Pier. Montello asked if ACOE jurisdiction would cover the old part of Granite Pier or just the new part, and Harbormaster Story said only the new part. Discussion followed. Murch asked if the ACOE recon would include a parking study. Crotty said he did not know for sure but he expected the Corps will be receptive to input from the town regarding what to study. Carrigan asked if the CPC request for funding would be cancelled. Crotty responded no, that there will be two tracks, federal and state. Stepenuck said there was no way the CPC money could provide a valid study. He also pointed out the Granite Pier Committee had come out against the project. Stepenuck spoke well of the ACOE and that it had done outstanding projects and conducted matters openly with public involvement. Stepenuck said there is profit potential for some in this project and might even be conflicts of interest. Fritch said there will be much more discussion before the project could actually go forward, and that the ACOE does a good job. The Harbormasters said the ACOE seems interested. Also the ACOE seems to have money, as evidenced by the forthcoming repairs to Bearskin Neck breakwater. Crotty said that in his experience federal agencies get money from time to time, and it becomes a case of use it or lose it. He also said the agencies get money in different buckets, and it might be the right time for ACOE to fund this project. He said if money is available in the ACOE New England District and not used, then another district like Texas will grab it. Crotty said he had prepared a motion and the Chairman told him to read it, which he did. Stepenuck requested and proposed amending the motion by inserting an additional clause: "provided the Harbor Advisory Committee hands over the proponent phase to the Rockport Board of Selectmen instead of the Harbor Advisory Committee." That motion was proposed by Stepenuck, seconded by Murch, and the vote was taken to include that clause. All voted aye, no nays. Motion passed 7-0. Then Crotty's motion, as amended, was brought to a vote. The motion was made by Montello, seconded by Fritch, and all voted in favor, none against. Motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Montello directed the meeting to the next item on the agenda which pertained to Hillier's excellent work on getting two boats removed from illegal storage at Pigeon Cove harbor. Hillier explained that it was hard to get the owners to move the boats, but it had been accomplished. The Harbormasters thanked Hillier for his good work. Hillier asked the Harbormasters when the Bearskin Neck repairs will commence, and they answered this October because of recreational boating. The matter of boat trailers also came up. Stepenuck said the trap storage is being very abused, especially by a few individuals, and maybe post allowable storage times. Harbormaster Story said he thinks there are enough signs posted already and better to talk to people. Chairman Montello said the committee will work on these matters for next year at the next HAC meeting. Montello and Murch pointed out the HAC Committee charge, which needs to be reviewed and tightened up to accomplish what the committee wants to accomplish.

The Harbormasters thanked everybody for participation on float day. They said things are moving along. Chairman Montello asked if there was anything to report on the Tool Company. The Harbormasters said the process of approval is ongoing, and they are not hearing anything right now and they are listening.

Chairman discussed meeting nights. Only Wednesdays works for most members. Meetings will remain on Wednesday nights.

Next meeting June 18th at 6 PM in Old Firehouse Trust.

Motion to adjourn at 6:58 PM. Motion by Murch, seconded by Fritch, all ayes in favor, no nays.

Motion passed 7-0.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MOTION REGARDING ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Motion authorizing the Rockport Harbor Advisory Committee to take appropriate action to request the Rockport Board of Selectmen to write the introductory letter to the Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, requesting that the Army Corps conduct an initial appraisal or “recon”, as explained on the Army Corps of Engineers New England District website, regarding the extension of Granite Pier, as recommended by the Army Corps of Engineers forty-nine years ago in its 1965 Study of Granite Pier, provided the Harbor Advisory Committee hands over the proponent phase to the Rockport Board of Selectmen instead of the Harbor Advisory Committee.

Motion By: Chairman Montello

Seconded by: Fred Hillier

Vote:

Chairman Montello	Yes
Mr. Hillier	Yes
Mr. Murch	Yes
Mr. Carrigan	Yes
Mr. Stepenuck	Yes
Mr. Crotty	Yes
Ms. Jorgensson	Absent
Mr. Fritch	Yes

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion Adopted

Date: 5-21-2014

Rockport Harbormasters, Rosemary Lesch and Scott Story, who were both present at the meeting, concur with this motion.