

Harbor Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting: July 23, 2014 at 6PM
Old Firehouse Trust

Present: Chairman Montello, Fred Hillier, Chris Murch, Kevin Carrigan, Larry Stepenuck, Phil Crotty, Steve Fritch; and Harbormaster Scott Story
Absent: Ms. Jorgensson
Visitor: Mrs. Loscutoff

Vice Chairman Murch opened meeting at 6:05 PM. No minutes available from June 2014 meeting since Ms. Jorgensson who had prepared them could not be present. June minutes will be taken up with July minutes in August along. Secretary Crotty passed around expense authorization form for 2015 as requested by Town Administrator. He pointed out the HAC Committee had a meeting the previous night coincident with the BOS meeting. The HAC meeting had been posted but there was no HAC quorum present, Chairman Montello, Stepenuck, and Crotty being the only members present. Purpose of that meeting was to answer BOS questions about HAC request for letter to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding initial USACE appraisal for Granite Pier extension.

Vice Chairman Murch then turned toward Agenda item #1: Pigeon Cove tenant issues. Discussion followed about PC looking neater and not smelling so much of bait and rotting fish. Hillier reported he has been pressing fishermen to keep the harbor neater and the boat loading area clean. Stepenuck noted a general cleanup. He also reported that he is a member of the PC co-op. The haul-out needs work and upgrading. He agreed the area has been spruced up and the tanks are clean. He noted there are still storage issues on the parcel next to the railroad but that is not a co-op issue. Murch asked about hazardous waste disposal.

Chairman Montello entered and took over the meeting. He said there was an issue about signs at PC and he had taken pictures. He thought the signs look ok. Stepenuck said at the T-Wharf they abuse the signs. He proposed certain hours and terms for storage there. Montello suggested making known the rules there and Stepenuck said he will prepare one page and submit to HAC and the Harbormasters for approval before distributing.

Discussion turned to the Tool Company and Chapter 91. It was noted that under the HAC's previous charge the HAC had responsibility for Ch. 91. Montello said the BOS should be made aware of the HAC view on the CH. 91 application. Stepenuck agreed and said that especially regarding the old fishing location. Harbormaster Story said the HAC should make its position known and needed to do so in writing before August 2nd; and that the fishing spot has been historically open to the public. Hillier agreed and noted that he had fished there as a boy in 1948. Discussion turned to the content of the letter the HAC will send to the BOS and copy to Mr. Lynch at DEP before August 2nd. Crotty pointed out the fishing location might be protected by prescriptive easement and Harbormaster Story added the problem of the navigation channel at Pigeon Cove should be included in the letter. Stepenuck offered to draft the letter and send to the members. Crotty will put final letter on HAC stationary. A motion was taken to approve sending the letter. Motion made by Hillier and seconded by Carrigan. All voted Aye. No Nay, Motion

passed unanimously. Hillier and Stepenuck wanted on record fact that they are members of PC co-op that owns land adjacent to the Tool Company.

Discussion turned to second item on agenda regarding regulatory policy. Not much to report since Ms. Jorgensson not present. She had been in contact with Town Administrators. Matter put off until August meeting.

Under other new business, Chairman Montello updated the board on the meeting with the BOS last night. He reported that there were some BOS questions which the attending HAC members answered and also some public discussion. The BOS signed the letter to the USACE, as HAC had drafted and requested. The BOS requested some written information on the matter, and Crotty dropped it off with BOS secretary Debbie today. Chairman told Crotty to keep on top of the matter with USACE.

Discussion took place about a matter on the BOS agenda last night concerning changing a lease at Pigeon Cove to one Jason _____. The members did not know the outcome since it was at end of BOS meeting. The Chairman noted that such leases used to come before the HAC. Hillier said he thinks the BOS are in charge of shack leases. He asked about Bradley Wharf. Murch said the situation is the same there—shacks are on town-owned land. There is an annual renewal fee with the Town.

Mrs. Luscutoff was recognized and thanked for attending. She said she is very interested in the PC matter with the Tool Co. She said years ago there was a lawsuit involving the Tool Co. property which covered the same access issues as at present. Stepenuck said he has a binder with old articles on the matter going far back, and will make that available.

Hillier reported that the matter of children needing fishing licenses is wrong. Stepenuck noted that the State collects fees that are supposed to be applied to fishing access and there is an office in Gloucester that handles that.

Carrigan asked if it is illegal to dump animal carcasses in the ocean and Harbormaster Story said definitely illegal.

Harbormaster Story the Harbormasters had not been asked for input on the Tool Co. matters, but they are intending to write a letter to BOS and DEP before August 2nd. He concurs with the HAC position to be set out in the letter authorized above.

Motion to dismiss at 6:47 PM made by Hillier and seconded by Crotty. All in favor voted Aye, no nays, and motion carried.

Chairman announced next meeting will be 4th Wednesday of August at 7 PM.