

Harbor Committee Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room
4 Pump Street
Tuesday, February 12, 2019
MINUTES

FINAL

Members Present:

Mike Herz, Chair – *Damariscotta*
Paul Bryant, Harbor Master – *Newcastle*
Bernie Delisle – *Damariscotta*
David Lawrence – *Newcastle*
Eric Peters – *Newcastle*

Jon Duke, Town Administrator – *Newcastle*

Members Absent:

Gisela Heimsath-Rhodes
Steven Hufnagel

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. David moved & Eric seconded to accept the minutes from Sept. 13, 2018.

First on the agenda was to review current members terms, Gisela & Steven's terms are up June 30, 2019. The committee discussed the Harbor Management Ordinance's requirement for a Vice Chairman & Secretary, then semi-elected David Lawrence as "Vice Chair" without an actual vote. David stated that he would be willing to step out of his member role to allow someone who may be interested though he felt it should be someone with a sincere interest and regard for the harbor/river; then asked did they have someone in mind.

Bernie stated that Chip Holmes (River Tripper) was very interested. The committee discussed Chip's working knowledge of the river, his genuine concerns were the health and well-being of the river. Despite this making him a good candidate, no decision was made.

Mike stated that having an active staff member available from the town office didn't warrant the appointing of a secretary, all were in favor.

Mike read from the Newcastle-Damariscotta Harbor Management Ordinance (Section 4.3 Committee Composition) regarding the number of members and it being specific to 3 members of the public per each town with a total of 6 members. The committee agreed that the proposed language should read, "*not less than 3*" when referring to members representing each town. The committee proposed to go to the selectmen requesting these and other changes to the language including to add something to section 4.3(a) indicating members should represent both commercial and recreational interest in the river/harbor.

Mike asked the status of dinghy stickers for the upcoming boating year. Shelly stated that the stickers had not yet been ordered. The committee prefers a white sticker with the current year and dinghy number on them. There was agreement that cost, not color should be the priority.

Duties and responsibilities of the Committee were discussed and how those are currently listed on the Damariscotta Committee website; along with what is written in the ordinance (Section 4.2). Mike suggested that there be more explicit language regarding the responsibilities of the committee in overseeing the vessel mooring permit process. A discussion ensued on proper wording and the following proposed changes to the language of Section 4.2:

- c. oversees regulations governing uses of the waterways, navigation lanes, anchorage areas, the towns' boating facilities and mooring districts
- d. establishes, oversee and administer the Harbor District system for mooring permit management in coordination with the Harbormaster and administering towns,
- e. establishes a process for governing, the permitting and maintenance of moorings,
- f. establishes permit charges and fee schedules for noncompliance, existing "d." is unchanged becomes "g." and is followed by remaining unchanged subsections.

It was, however; concluded that all other decisions regarding moorings would continue to be deferred to the Harbormaster as specified in the ordinance (Section 4.4).

It was agreed that the Damariscotta Committee website needed to be updated for the boating citizens.

Jon reported that the selectmen would meet and vote by June 15th, any changes to the language of the ordinance needed to be submitted before then. Mike asked that everyone review the ordinance and make any revisions or suggested changes and email him with them before Wed., Feb. 27th.

Mike stated to the committee, that he had spoken many times with Peter Drum (town's attorney) in reference to David Belknap's request to allow unregulated mudflat moorings for folks with smaller boats / vessels. It was concluded that if his mooring/boat wasn't in the navigational channel and was within his property deed he could do as he wished. Mike stated that since Mr. Belknap had not yet asked if the Committee had come to any conclusions, he wasn't going to bring it up. David stated that Mr. Belknap had taken the time to write his letter and come to the meeting as a concerned citizen, and Mike had spent a lot of time and effort to find a solution, therefore; it was Mike's responsibility to share his findings with him. Mike said he would let Mr. Belknap know of their conclusions.

Bernie had brought in a revised handout that lists harbor rules & regulations to be given at the time of mooring renewal, however; after looking at the language of the ordinance he and the committee felt it needed to be revised to reflect that language. He will email it to Shelly for distribution once completed.

Other / New Business

Jon Duke brought to the committee's attention that at the end of this summer marks the fifth year of Newcastle being the administrating town representing the Harbor and that it would be time to "turn-over" the responsibilities to Damariscotta, at which time Newcastle would then represent Shellfish. He explained that this decision had been made years back with Damariscotta. Jon also explained that with the plans for new construction to the town landing etc., along with much of the boating community being based in Damariscotta, made perfect sense for the switch. The committee was not happy with that decision and felt they needed to speak with Damariscotta's town manager, Matt Lutkus and the selectmen to discuss the possibility of keeping the Harbor Committee based here in Newcastle. The Chairman agreed to participate in discussions with the town managers regarding resolution.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. No future meeting scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Clifford
Deputy Clerk of Newcastle