

DAMARISCOTTA-NEWCASTLE HARBOR COMMITTEE MINUTES

Town Office

Newcastle, Maine 04553

Tues., JULY 9, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Hertz – Chair / Asst. Harbor Master

Paul Bryant – Harbor Master

Bernie DeLisle

David Lawrence

Gisela Heimsath-Rhodes

Steven Hufnagel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Eric Peters

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

First on the agenda was a report from Shelly regarding the status of mooring registrations. Mike asked for a list of mooring holders who had not paid their fees; Shelly stated she would send them via email.

Mike informed the committee that he, Matt Lutkus, Town Manager, Damariscotta and Jon Duke, Town Administrator, Newcastle met to discuss the status of the Harbor Committee activities and the decision whether to keep the Harbor Committee based here in Newcastle versus swapping back to shellfish with Damariscotta. The topic was discussed with Newcastle's town attorney, Peter Drum as well and it was decided that both town systems were working and therefore; the decision was to keep them the same going forward.

Liability issues in relation to the Harbor mooring activities were discussed. Mike advised the committee that the liability policy covers the town and its officials such as: Paul Bryant, the Harbor Master, unless he found negligent / derelict of his duties. A question was raised as to whether Eric Peters was covered because he is an independent contractor; it was decided by the committee they needed to find out from Eric exactly what his coverage is. Paul interjected to let the committee know that he is also covered by his Riverside business. A discussion ensued with no conclusions at this time.

Bernie Delisle gave a report on the status of permits on vessels that are berthed at the town dock. Dinghies are tied up without current stickers, many have past years attached to them. There needs to be order at the harbor mooring – it has outgrown the number of dinghies along with sizes of the current dinghies being tied up; they are over-sized and should be classified as boats. It was discussed that there may be a need for a separate commercial area away from the residential

There are many hazardous activities happening within the harbor that warrant control of “traffic” and rules of the harbor. There are way too many potentials for accidents, these things are mainly happening on the weekends where the traffic is the highest and some sort of policing may be required.

A discussion ensued with no conclusions at this time.

A decision was made by the committee that a future meeting needed to be scheduled and devoted to rewriting changes in the ordinance, along with language.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Clifford
Deputy Town Clerk - Newcastle