

Final

Harbor Committee Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room
4 Pump Street
September 13, 2018
MINUTES

Members Present:

Mike Herz, Chair -*Damariscotta*
Paul Bryant, Harbor Master -*Newcastle*
David Lawrence -*Newcastle*
Gisela Heimsath-Rhodes -*Newcastle*
Bernie Delisle -*Damariscotta*
Eric Peters -*Newcastle*

Community Members:

David Belknap -*Damariscotta*
Trip – River Tripper

Guest Speaker:

Jon Lewis, DMR, Aquaculture Program Director – Augusta

Members Absent:

Steve Hufnagel

Mike Herz called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. with an introduction of Jon Lewis, Aquaculture Program Director with Dept. of Marine Resources, Augusta.

Mr. Lewis' topic of discussion: Requirements / Procedures for an Aquaculture Application of a Lease, Different types of Leases, Laws and Regulations, Procedures for Marking the Lease area and how the DMR depends solely on the Harbor Masters to convey markings that are required for a lease, and lastly, the Safety of Navigation around those leases. Mike stated that navigational safety within the river has been a large concern the main reason for his asking Mr. Lewis to come to speak with the committee. Mr. Lewis delivered a very detailed presentation which offered the committee opportunity to ask questions and share their concerns. It was asked of Mr. Lewis how does the Damariscotta River compare to the other areas of the state, he replied, "Damariscotta is 20 years ahead of the rest of the state for Aquaculture, this river produces 10 times the product continues to be the premier location for oyster farming in Maine." The committee was very pleased with his response and his information.

David Belknap – Damariscotta resident read a letter he had sent to the committee prior to the evening regarding his opinion of mooring requirements. (See attached) He expressed being in opposition of the regulations for owners of smaller boats that ground out on the mud flats near the shore. Essentially asking the committee to consider revising the ordinance / guidelines to omit any permits to be issued and to change the size / weight of a mooring for owners with smaller boats. Mike expressed his concern for safety and that it couldn't be that owners dictate what's to be considered safe. He also stated he would like to discuss the legalities of the

ordinance with the town attorney before going any further. There was much discussion after Mr. Belknap left the meeting regarding weight / size of the mooring, inspection concerns were discussed as well. David Lawrence felt Mr. Belknap had made some good points that did merit consideration, and that perhaps the committee could grant an “*up to*” weight on the moorings for the smaller boats, however; the committee was without resolution.

The April 2018 minutes were approved. Gisela made motion to accept, David seconded the motion, all were in favor. The vote was: **6-0**.

Shelly reported on the number of moorings that had remaining balances, there were 17 in total. The committee members were surprised at the amount of paid mooring holders, stating that this wasn’t the case in the past. There had also been 39 dinghy stickers issued; two of which were not mooring holders per Paul’s permission. Paul explained that these were people who lived on the river and were just coming to town to shop etc. and wanted to tie up to the dinghy dock for short periods of time, those stickers however, were conditional, meaning if the dock was too full they were not to park there.

Bernie submitted a “*mock-up*” card that he felt should be sent out prior to the renewal of the moorings, the card would list pertinent information pertaining to the harbor, mooring number and regulations; it was decided it needed better language and clarification, there was no decision made, it was tabled to a later meeting. Mike reiterated that as stated in the February minutes, next year’s mooring fees were staying the same. They all felt that the dinghy sticker should be included in the mooring fee, in addition have the mooring number added to the sticker for better identification. Peter made motion to accept, Gisela seconded the motion, all were in favor. The vote was: **5-0-1**. Paul abstained.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15pm upon motion by Mike, seconded by David, all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Clifford
Deputy Clerk of Newcastle