Minutes

Blue Hill Marine Resources Committee

August 1, 2022

Attendees: MRC	J. Wootten (Chair), S. Guiness, J. Gulliver, W. Horton	
Attendees: Other	J. Chapman, S. Miller, D. Robertson	
Called to order	6:30pm	
Harbormaster update	**South Blue Hill Boat Ramp.** D. Robertson reported that he is coordinating delivery of the 60 planks for the South Blue Hill boat ramp with the State and RF Jordan, which will transport them from Richmond, ME to the wharf. As previously noted, the planks are provided free of charge by the state; transportation will cost $150/hr (it is hoped that all 60 planks can be transported in two round trips).	Robertson to arrange for delivery next week.
	Porta-potties. There are continuing complaints about South Blue Hill wharf users' need for a porta-potty or similar facility. D. Robertson reported on the availability of plans and cost estimates ($10k for single unisex facility; $15k for separate facilities) for a permanently installed facility similar to those in state parks. However, it was agreed that contracting for cleaning is the key issue and this must also be dealt with in any plan. After some discussion about the history of the Town's relationship with local plumbing companies, it was suggested that, well in advance of next year's season, the Town approach local providers to propose a three-year contract for porta-potty services. There was renewed discussion about placement of security cameras at the South Blue Hill wharf and Town Park to the extent vandalism or property damage is a Town concern.	Miller to coordinate with Town Administrator to ensure porta-potty facilities are available next year (possibly under longer term contract).
	Crane repair. There was discussion about the fact the Village Wharf crane is inoperable and, more generally, what to do about it. Several issues were identified: • Use of the crane appears to be sporadic amongst a few users • The training protocols that were initially put in place when the crane was installed are no longer in effect	Harbormaster/MRC members to develop a plan to regulate the crane going forward; MRC to determine whether to recommend the repairs or to

	• The crane is no longer secured with a key, so anyone can use it • There is no longer a charge for use of the crane, so the cost of its use, maintenance, and repair falls to the general Marine Resource budget The MRC agreed to revisit this issue at next months' meeting with a more comprehensive proposal to put the crane back in operation—to include plans for training, securing the crane, charging for its use, and providing for it to be moved and stored appropriately during the winter.	remove the crane at the September meeting.
Mooring Inventory	S. Miller shared his work inventorying the moorings in Blue Hill waters (other than the Salt Pond, which has yet to be surveyed). He identified ~556 moorings that require permits, as compared to ~290 permits issued in recent years. There was discussion about how to enhance enforcement of the permit requirements for the 2023 season, emphasizing communication with mooring owners about the permit requirements over the course of the winter and being much more aggressive, up to and including removal of unpermitted mooring gear, in summer 2023.	No decisions were made; work will continue to try to identify the owners of the inventoried moorings in the near term and a community communications strategy will be developed in the fall.
Mooring Fees	S. Miller shared the highlights of a recent conversation with a mooring owner whose business has more than 10 moorings about the fact that the Town's mooring fee schedule provides that all moorings in excess of three are charged the $250 non-resident rate. Miller expressed the view that, for these moorings, he feels $100 is more appropriate. He also recommended that the MRC consider eliminating the free mooring provided to shoreland parcels and charging the "resident and property owner" rate of $50 for that first mooring.	The MRC will evaluate mooring fees in the fall.
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm	