



**Provincetown Public Pier Corporation (PPPC)
Judge Welsh Room - Town Hall
Meeting Minutes of Thursday, October 11, 2012**

Members present: Lee Ash, Rich Wood, Carlos Verde, Ginny Binder and Scott Fraser.

Members absent: None

Other Attendees: Rex McKinsey (Pier Manager/Harbormaster) and Ellen C. Battaglini (Administrative Assistant).

Chair Lee Ash called the Public Meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

AGENDA

Annual Public Hearing for Public Comment on Operations and Marine Patrol Officer Program:

Lee reviewed the Pier Corporation's Request for Opinion, a survey composed of questions about Pier usage and soliciting opinions about the MPO program by the public. It has been published in the Banner this week, is available on the Town website and has been sent out to all Pier tenants and mooring holders.

Chief Jeff Jaran appeared with the Chief of the Provincetown Coast Guard Station, John Harper, and another Coast Guard officer, Petty Officer Eric Silvoy. They discussed the MPO program with the Board.

JH: Very supportive of the program and has a great relationship with Chief Jaran and Rex, which developed over summer.

ES: Has been at the Provincetown Station for several years. Chief Harper is trying to reach out to community and build relationships with local police and fire departments and neighboring Towns and to offer the Coast Guard's assistance whenever possible. This is in contrast to previous commands.

RW: Asked ES for comments re order on Pier this summer as opposed to the previous summer and how things could be improved.

ES: Showing an MPO presence on Pier is important. There was initial confusion between different agencies involved and communication was not ideal, but has improved lately.

JH: Working with Chief Jaran and Detective Scott Chovanec was very beneficial to Coast Guard. As season progressed, initial problems in communication were solved and they were able to work effectively in a law enforcement capacity with MPOs and Harbormaster. Good collaboration. Along with Chief Jaran, they are looking at accelerating the program re education, training and communication initiatives. MPOs add more support and security to the Harbor. Coast Guard cannot have so much jurisdiction on Pier and having MPOs who keep an eye on things has been great. It has become an example for other communities on Cape.

GB: Pier likes to be a model for other communities. Bridge between community and Coast Guard in a positive way. Would like JH's assessment of strengths and weaknesses opportunities and threats to order to understand how to optimize program and elevate public perception that the program is a good thing for Town and model for other communities that have similar jurisdictional issues. Being a model may even be leveraged into grant opportunities.

JH: Has experience with larger communities working with similar partnership. MPO programs have been established in other small harbors. He will work in conjunction with those areas to cull information. He and Chief Jaran are concerned about large capacity commercial vessels with high volumes of customers arriving in Harbor. With MPOs, patrols can be increased and showing presence creates a sense of security.

CV: Is outreach extended to Environmental Police?

JH: They work with Division of Marine Fisheries as well as in a law enforcement capacity. The Coast Guard has always worked with them. Great law enforcement asset to have on the water. They are actually now stationed at CG Pier. Contributes to having more security and more search and rescue assets in Harbor.

LA: Were majority of issues on water related to speed and recklessness? Other issues PPPC should know about?

JJ: Mainly safety checks. MPO program trying to be more about education, making sure proper safety equipment is on board vessels. Relationships forged between MPO, CG and MEP has improved communication between agencies. They are willing to take on local 800 MHZ radio bandwidth and communicate directly in the event of an emergency in Harbor.

SF: Any way to establish low speed zone for swimmers in Harbor?

JH: Could look into it, but beyond his responsibility at CG Station. Waterways management issue and re-configuring channels would impact commercial traffic. However, safety concerns do take precedence.

CV: Situation that occurred this summer involved lack of knowledge by boat renters. Some education needed before creating 'no-wake' or 'swimming' zones.

LA: Maybe some kind of adjustment similar to jet ski corridor. Agreed that education element needed.

CV: Issues arise out of various activities that occur in Harbor, both recreational and commercial. Is CG in or out of Harbor?

JH: Both. Jurisdiction all the way to Orleans. Concentration will be in Provincetown because of volume.

GB: In light of survey, would like to sit down with CG at a work session in future to figure out how to do things better, overcome perceptions and understand what the issues have been and take advantage of the opportunity created by MPO program.

JH: Agreed and very enthusiastic about MPO program, which will only help out other communities.

LA: Communication was an issue this first year, but presence of MPOs on Pier has been positive.

JJ: Most MPO time was spent on water mapping mooring field. Focus was on Pier initially. Majority of time, officer was on Pier working alongside HM. If want perception of more presence on water, have to be able to respond to things and be out on patrol enforcing rules and regulations of Harbor, which CG does not have time to do.

RM: Appreciates CG cooperation with HM staff in doing training and continuing coordination and communication.

JH: Appreciates HM staff cooperation in their training exercises. Provincetown is paving way for MPO program and hopes it will continue.

Jeff Johnson appeared to comment on MPO program. Thought that MPO program had some glitches. Would like to see more of the marine part of the MPO program, like helping commercial fishers when they are in trouble, emphasized rather than the law enforcement aspect. Related an incident where he needed help and couldn't get in touch with HM office or MPOs. More maintenance is needed on Pier. Some getting done, but more needed.

LA: Requested that if maintenance issues not getting done, he report that to Board.

JJ: More training on marine aspect than law enforcement. Enough law enforcement now.

SF: Any record keeping, or public log, available in HM Office to solicit comments on infrastructure or other safety issues where public can come in and note date and time of concern or maintenance issue. Then HM Office has a record and public knows it can comment on infrastructure issues. Then be able to get information out of it to see if anything was done to correct issue and evaluate response.

RM: Maintenance request forms available.

SF: Public access to a log in HM Office where they can express complaint or concern or research a HM Office response to a concern? Could inspire more public confidence that things are being dealt with.

JJ: Felt HM staff was competent in past. Now doesn't have confidence that MPOs are up to speed on water related issues. His first duty as a captain is safety of crew and wasn't happy about lack of response in that situation.

RW: Did JJ talk to RM?

JJ: Yes and RM gave JJ his cell number to call if no response on radio.

RW: Need to get to bottom of lack of response to radio call Need to address that within organization. Shouldn't happen again. As to SF comment, if no action taken, log is useless.

RM: Incident was recorded in HM log.

CV: Are MPOs trained to respond to VHF calls or dispatched from HM Office?

RM: Yes.

CV: JJ has a large vessel, not sure if HM could have helped. Tow boat service available in Harbor.

JJ: Didn't need a tow, just assistance.

RM: Can do other things besides stand by and keep other boats away from him. Can tie up to vessel and slow it down to minimize damage or bring him into his berth.

JJ: There was a lack of training.

CV: Marine-specific training?

JJ: More public safety side and less emphasis on law enforcement.

RW: Doesn't know who was on duty that day. Unacceptable situation.

JJ: Things to work out for next year.

LA: Appreciate his input.

JJ: RM is one of better HMs he has dealt with over the years.

Steve Ross commented that MPOs on Pier sometimes get called away from the Pier to deal with an emergency police situation in Town. Has left no one on Pier at times.

RW: Ask Chief Jaran about MPOs getting called off Pier. Is there a way to find out how often that happened?

Chief Jaran: HM would have that information. Not always for emergency situations. MPOs don't have same knowledge as AHMs.

RW: If MPO gets called off the Pier and no one is on the Pier. Does that happen often?

Chief Jaran: No. These issues need to be addressed. Maybe marine radios need to be installed in PPD dispatch.

GB: Opportunity to fine tune program and look at where resources need to be applied and figure out how to patch holes in program. None of what she is hearing is unable to be solved. Thanks to Jeff to bring issue to Board attention so they can think about in a macro way to insure it doesn't happen again. More resources and more expertise and some tweaking, the issue can be avoided again. Tools in place to make sure things can be improved and appreciates tenants coming to public hearing so the Board can find out unknown problems.

Public Statements

John Santos left material about the Charles Morgan, the last whaling vessel to leave Provincetown Harbor, for the Board. Flagship of the Mystic Seaport Museum and is undergoing \$7 million reconstruction. Next summer will be stopping at three historic whaling ports, including Provincetown, and Boston.

Written comment from Ben deRuyter in response to legal ad stating that he is in favor of the beach-raking program. Observed an increase in the usage of the Ryder Street beach.

Special Agenda Items

None.

Review Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting on 09/27/12 as written.

Motion: Carlos Verde **2nd:** Rich Wood

Vote:

Yes: 4 **No:** 0 **A:** 0

Motion Passes.

Directors' Statements

Carlos Verde: Thanks for those who attended meeting. Good discussions and MPO program moving in a positive way.

Ginny Binder: Good time to benchmark customer satisfaction with MPO program and doing it on a regular basis. Way to interact with public and demonstrate ability to address issues and get feedback.

Lee Ash: Has Board heard from Finance Committee re touring the Pier? Rex will extend invitation again and set up a tour.

Rich Wood: None.

Scott Fraser: None.

Working Group Reports

Trap Sheds: Lee received a request from the Monument to rent half of a trap shed for next summer. Question of expanding use of sheds for more general purposes.

RW: Wanted a matrix showing what weeks the trap shed was rented. What was percentage of occupancy in light of acquisition of new trap sheds.

GB: Trap shed could serve as a good incubator of businesses, a place to test ideas, without having to make a major financial contribution.

CV: He was approached re trap sheds and suggested that seasonal is very affordable compared to Commercial Street rents, however weekly is not as affordable. RM: Admitted weekly can be difficult and weather-dependent.

CV: Might look at tweaking trap shed rental rates, more for seasonal and less for weekly.

LA: Have to price your product correctly for that location.

RM: Artists are told people more likely to buy less expensive art or crafts. Good for artists to be doing their work outside their shed and engage with the public.

GB: People will walk by the trap shed and off the Pier, it will make an impression so that when they walk back on the Pier they might be ready to purchase. The community is about the arts and the environment and whenever they can be put together, as in the trap sheds, the Pier and the community benefit.

SF: Short term trap shed tenants come from out of town? How do out-of-town artists afford to spend a week in Town?

CV: Time limit for seasonal trap shed artists?

LA: No time limit because demand not there for spaces.

Pier Manager's Report

Trap Shed Rentals – Most seasonal have renewed. Has addressed some concerns with one and another that Ellen will contact to find out if she wants to renew.

Request for Opinion Survey – About 500 have gone out and also published in the Banner. Went to all tenants, businesses in Lopes Square, mooring holders and other marine-dependent entities. Gotten half a dozen responses so far and most are positive and constructive. Build a synopsis around responses have good material to work with re MPOs and other Pier activities.

Staff Hour Differences – Compare AHM hours of staffing from last summer to this summer's staff hours. Substantial reduction in AHM hours in high season. Difference in shoulder season is less. \$32,000-\$34,000 less spent on staffing.

Historic Port Initiative – A pre-symposium trip planned for the Canadian New England Cruise Symposium in Boston in May. Promotes Provincetown as a port. Marketing director for Tisbury Wharf wants to put together a plan to pitch to small boat lines to have theme-based cruises. Panel discussion during Symposium highlighting small cruise ships for small ports. Idea from cruise ship executive associated with Massport and who has been instrumental in bringing small ports together to help promote Boston and Massachusetts. Will send out a press release before Symposium to announce that a Port Security Plan is done or in hands of Coast Guard awaiting final approval.

Maintenance Update – Five piles left to install. Luis will be moving operation to Antonio Jorge berth. Three 50-amp plug receptacles on 'T' have been replaced and a couple of large lights replaced due to broken parts. Ladders, which will have to be done at moon tides, are on list of projects. Jib crane upkeep continues. Preparing floats for winter in November. Will try to get Luis to a meeting to discuss maintenance issues.

Accounts Receivables – Will have a report at the next meeting in quarterly reports. Will remind those with outstanding balances for annual dockage. AR is in good shape, only about a dozen are in arrears.

LA: Need to have e-mail addresses for all tenants for better and faster communication. Should be able to send out e-mail blasts.

RM: Have excursion float e-mails, but not for all tenants, mostly the younger ones.

RW: Should collect that in spring with renewal applications.

SF: Send out a mailing to those in arrears as end of year is coming up.

Joint Meeting with Board of Selectmen – October 22nd to discuss MPO project and Vernon needs packets by the 17th. Should have more feedback from public before that.

LA will put together a hand-out before the meeting. SF and CV would like another meeting of the Board before Joint Meeting in order to discuss the Board's recommendation to BOS so Directors will present a solid front. LA not looking at it that way. GB thinks it premature and that the Board should say to the BOS that the Board is

evaluating the feedback and speaking with people directly involved and it would like more time to explore how to optimize this and are generally happy with how it worked out but not ready to make a recommendation and to go back in spring.
The Board will meet for a Work Session on October 18th at 5:00 P.M. Could meet at the HM Office.

New Business

Last meeting RW sent Directors information about life rings for the Pier pursuant to BOS request. RM worked with Detective Scott Chovanec on locations. Scott is doing more research and getting some quotes. Will present at next Public Meeting on the 25th.

Motion to adjourn @ 6:45 P.M.

Motion: Rich Wood **2nd:** Carlos Verde

Vote:

Yes: 5 **No:** 0

Motion Passes.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen C. Battaglini
PPPC Administrative Assistant

Lee Ash, Chair