



Joint Meeting Minutes

Provincetown Select Board, Provincetown Public Pier Corporation, Harbor Committee

Monday, September 30, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.

Judge Welsh Room, Provincetown Town Hall

260 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA 02657

Joint Meeting with the Harbor Committee and Provincetown Public Pier Corporation called to order at 5pm by David Abramsom. The full Select Board (SB) was present (D Abramson, Lise King, Bobby Anthony, John Golden, Lousie Venden).

Harbor Committee (HC) meeting called to order at 5:05pm. All members were present: David Flattery (Chair), Laura Ludwig (scribe), Susan Avellar, John Santos, Elise Cozzi, Wendy Loughlin.

Pier Corp (PC) did not have a quorum; Carlos Verde and Ginny Binder present.

Acting Town Manager David Gardner began work session discussion on the organizational structure of the Harbormaster and Marine Services. Beaches, harbor & pier have overlapping jurisdictions within town structure and management needs careful consideration. No decisions will be made this evening. The current agreement (town and PC) expired in 2017.

D Gardner provided background on the agreement for Harbormaster Services through the PC, and the need for re-evaluating redundancies in the current structure to serve the needs of the town.

R Anthony asked about the "Marine Coordinator" position job description. The basis of the description is in the report provided by Rex McKinsey at the request of the PC. While the description is generally considered "to be determined" at this time, the position would report primarily to Town Manager but, as outlined in the proposal issued earlier, would serve as part of the Harbormaster structure (attending meetings as a Deputy HM, emergency rescues, etc.), likely with more demand seasonally. The town proposes that position would be housed on the pier.

Pier Corp read a letter that they sent to the SB today. L King asked for clarification of roles of the two boards (PC & HC). Constituents are concerned that there may be conflicts of interests between the for-profit and municipal approaches to the pier. D Flattery also asked for a clarification of the PC role. G Binder provided the background of the formation of the PC. \$14.5million was assigned to Provincetown, and the town needed to provide 25% of that as match. The expansion included ferry access, commercial fishing structure and public transportation. It was formed in 2002 as a *private management group* independent of the town to run the pier and pay back the loan. The PC has since increased revenues and expanded sources of revenue. Today the needs are much more complex and the responsibilities cannot reside with one person; hence the current restructuring effort.

S Avellar asked about the PC's decision to place the Harbormaster (HM) on administrative leave and to divide the position into three separate roles without consulting the HC. D Gardner stated that at some point the HM was told to report to the Town Manager and that his office may have dropped the ball on that personnel issue being communicated to the HC. J Santos stated that the PC has overstepped its role in some situations that the HC should have been involved long before the TM

was involved. He reiterated the preference to remove the HM from the PC and place it squarely in the Town office structure, and noted that the PC did not convene a meeting tonight to be present at the discussion.

C Verde stated that all the PC meetings are public and anyone is welcome to attend. He reviewed the situation with handling the F/V Artemis (3/18) and how it was requested by the TM for the PC to handle it. The PC has been getting a lot of complaints including a “very disturbing letter from the Coast Guard” that prompted them to push the structural change process along.

S Avellar pointed out that many aspects of the Harbor Mgt. Plan require the participation of the HM. G Binder agreed and spelled out the areas where it made sense for that to happen.

D Flattery asked why the PC wants to be in a position to manage the HM. G Binder responded that they have been doing so and it's been working. D Gardner encourage there to be cross-pollination and not establish walls and boundaries between the roles. D Flattery said the HC would like to propose an alternate structure once some questions were answered, and asked the SB whether they had considered the motion presented to them earlier by the HC. L Venden said this is a process and the SB is not prepared to make any decisions tonight, and will even be considering other structures to manage the pier, such as an Enterprise Fund, e.g.

L King asked how the PC and HC can work together moving forward. D Gardner stated that a staff liaison will help in that regard, as would scheduling respective meetings at different times so that members can attend each other's meetings. The “divorce” of the HM from the PC is not an easy break to make, as there are lots of shared systems, office real estate, personnel, issues; and, as part of this discussion, it might not be the best move. The value of the harbor services agreement is what we need to discuss tonight.

D Flattery said that the HC is not focused on the financial operation of the pier, and would like to keep the management of it separate from harbor functions. “The Pier is in the Harbor; the Harbor is not in the Pier.” Activity on the pier has changed and increased over the past 15 years. C Verde explained that monies collected from rent and mooring fees are paid to the town for rent. He agreed that the finances have been in disarray, which is why they have installed an office manager and made other accounting system improvements.

J Santos asked about the pier manager's role – administrative vs. tending to the facility. The current proposal from the PC would replace one person with three. There is currently no visible maintenance personnel present on the pier. The group discussed breakdown of town v. PC personnel costs. The 295 budget has been underfunded but could be supplemented (or replaced?) through fees collected through Ch. 91 via the Harbor Access Gift Fund.

L Ludwig pointed out that the Harbor Plan is not a job description but a guide for whichever town personnel may have activity on the waterfront. She encouraged the group to consider the restructuring process with an eye to what would serve the town best regardless of who fills the positions. D Flattery stated the HC will meet soon and present the SB with a proposal. L King requested that whatever plan the HC come up with include climate change resiliency and collaboration with other towns.

S Avellar moved to adjourn; E Cozzi seconded and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned 6:25pm. Next HC meeting 10/16/19 at 5pm.