



## Harbor Committee

# Public Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 2019  
Provincetown Town Hall, Caucus Hall Meeting Room  
260 Commercial Street

## MINUTES

### **I. Meeting Called to Order at 5:00pm**

Members present: Susan Avellar (acting chair), Elise Cozzi, Laura Ludwig, John Santos.  
Members excused: Wendy Loughlin, David Flattery. Public: Lory Santos, Carlos Verde, Provincetown Public Pier Corporation (PPPC), Mike Glasfeld, Bay State Cruise Co. Lise King, Select Board liaison. Staff: Rex McKinsey, Don German.

### **II. Review/amend/approve minutes [none to approve]**

### **III. Public Statements**

Mike Glasfeld, Bay State Cruise Company addressed the effort underway for wake mitigation. Lory Santos remarked that there was a consensus reached at the original stakeholder meeting, and wonders why the Harbor Committee proposed an arrangement that was stricter (see minutes, 11/26/19). Mr. Glasfeld said the suggested (revised) regulation would increase the taxi time (from 4 minutes to 10 minutes per round trip), and that the company has invested in their vessels so their wakes present no risk. Carlos suggested there may be other strategies to slow down personal vessels (such as lobster boats).

Lise said that one of the priorities for the town is to promote the “blue economy” (aquaculture) and that there might be even more conflict w/ vessel traffic in the long run. It would be helpful to know what the trade-offs might be, and how the number of trips during a day affects the bottom line of ferry and other transport vessel trips.

Rex said that the revised regulation proposed for wake mitigation related not only to the Long Point area but to additional aquaculture sites (including the east side of the harbor). The public hearing hasn't been listed yet and adjustments can be made to the suggested regulatory language. The ferry schedule is “stacked up” and coordinated to run consistently throughout the day and works well.

Susan stated that the committee's priorities vis a vis no-wake zones are public safety and the environment, and we do not want to impinge the ability to do business in the harbor (including aquaculture and transport).

Lise pointed out that if the town decides not to adopt a no-wake zone and someone gets hurt, there is the potential for an issue with liability. Lory said she has raised that issue with the Select Board in the past. Mr. Glasfeld spoke from his experience that it's generally the vessel that is sued, not the municipality.

Don stated that the initial conversations concerned the inbound vessels, and that perhaps a second stakeholder meeting be held to discuss both inbound and outbound wakes. Mr. Glasfeld said that the wakes of Salacia (the vessel which throws the largest wake) were tested in various areas of the harbor and that they posed no issue when following the originally proposed route.

#### **IV. New Business:**

[Because it pertained to the above discussion, "new business" was taken out of order.]  
Public Hearing Notice review – Items to be reviewed are vessel insurance requirements; a change in the date of mooring permit issuance to align with all other town-issued permits; and the no-wake restriction area. Rex suggested that since we have two proposed options for the latter, both be presented at the hearing so that all comments can be considered. Other items relate to kayak rack sizes and locations. Draft language for the hearing was distributed.

Carlos asked whether the vessel insurance regulation could reflect something other than vessel excise tax, such as property or income tax [?]. Rex will consult w/ staff to check on that. Laura asked whether houseboat regulations are pending; we have not discussed them recently, although houseboats are subject to mooring and insurance regs.

John made the motion to publish the public hearing notice for January 22, 2020, including the side-by-side options for wake mitigation. Elise seconded and all were in favor.

Under other new business, Elise said that the Rec Dept has asked the committee for a letter of support regarding the public waterfront park which provides vista views and public access. John suggested that the committee support waterfront usage of the park, including provision for small boat access. Lise reported that a rental fee structure has been established for private use of the space. Rex offered to draft a letter of support and bring it to the committee in January.

Don shared a summary of some of the primary objectives of the Harbor Plan and the parties who would be likely involved with each item as outlined in the Plan.

#### **V. Marine Department Updates:**

Chapter 91 project update – we are still waiting for input from DEP. Rex and Jim have provided a number of properties to them for case study that have not been reviewed yet;

there is a dispute on one of the properties regarding mean high water line and abutters' rights vis a vis Commonwealth tideline.

Washington Ave. landing update – the surveyor has completed his calculations and the markers can be placed when conditions allow.

Groynes repairs east end – repair is scheduled but conditions have to be just right (weather and tide).

Landing signs package – Steve Wisbauer has been working on linking Provincetown up with the Blue Economy wayfinding signage being used in a number of coastal towns. A two-page summary of the signage plan and design was distributed. A proposal was sent to the CC Blue Economy Fdtn. and is in the works.

## **VI. Old Business:**

Laura read a draft letter to the Select Board regarding the new increase in parking permit fees for volunteer board members desiring to park at the MPL. Lise said that there is much chagrin from many quarters of the town about the new parking permit fees, and shared that the only two likely possible solutions would be a stipend for board members (reimbursement), or to bring it to town meeting to change the new regulation. Carlos suggested he could talk to the PPPC about board members parking at the T on the pier after 5pm. John moved that the letter be sent to the Select Board so that we are on the record. Elise seconded and all were in favor. Lise recommended that the letter be sent to each Select Board member and not just the Chair. Laura will forward the letter to the SB secretary for distribution.

Susan attended the PPPC meeting on 12/12/19 as was discussed at the joint meeting on 12/11/19. The PPPC provided a suggested job description for the Harbormaster position that we will discuss at our next meeting. They are moving ahead with posting/advertising the Harbormaster position (in local papers only). Now that a new town manager has been identified (contract pending) the process can move ahead. Susan recommended that the Harbor Cte be involved in the hiring process. Carlos described the likely hiring process, and suggested that the HC could be involved at the latter stages of the interviews. Lise suggested that we all help the new town manager, who has no experience in a maritime community, providing as much information as we can share along the way to help her get up to speed.

The PPPC will be looking at harbor regs (Ch. 2 & 3) to see if there is anything they want to weigh in on or to recommend changes.

**VII.** John moved to adjourn; Elise seconded and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:34pm.

**Next HC meeting: January 8<sup>th</sup>**