

**Harbor Committee
Bristol Town Hall
January 20, 2022**

Present: Robert Ball, Troy Benner, David Caron, Steve Hope, Rick Poland, John Stolecki, John Stotz

Also present: Mary Piasecki

The meeting was called to order at 5:02pm.

Minutes.

On a motion by Poland and a second by Ball, the minutes from December 16 were unanimously approved.

Harbormaster Reports.

Ball reported a mooring owner was in violation of the ordinance. The owner has not used the mooring for several weeks and has not removed the mooring buoy. Currently, the harbor has about 2 inches of ice. This is the second year the violation has occurred. In addition, two moorings still have boats on them. The current ordinance does not address having boats on moorings in the winter months. In previous years, moorings have been displaced and lost from boats being left on moorings in the winter months.

Hope reported damage from a storm. A fish house located just east of Shaw's Wharf had fallen into the harbor. The owner cleaned up most of it the next day. Two other nearby docks were damaged as well.

Hope has heard that a commercial mooring owner has bought a lobster boat that is 12 feet longer than the size of the current berth. A local marine contractor has been tying a towboat with outboard to private docks and moorings without permission.

Stolecki reported hearing complaints from mooring owners about their mooring balls and a local marine contractor. The same contractor has left a float in Pemaquid River piled with mooring balls.

Ordinance Amendments.

- The title of the ordinance was changed to "Harbors & Landings Ordinance".
- All occurrences of "Selectmen or Board of Selectmen" were amended to "Select Board".
- The definition of Nonresident was added. "An individual who does not maintain a legal residence in the Town of Bristol."
- The definition of Nonresident Taxpayer was added. "An individual who owns real estate property in the Town of Bristol and is not a resident."
- The definition of Resident was amended to "An individual who maintains a legal residence in the Town of Bristol."
- Part 7 of the ordinance was amended to a one-year mooring cycle effective January 1, 2023.
- A new section was added (Part 10) titled "New Harbor Landing Usage".

“Commercial, recreational and emergency access shall always be available on a continuing basis at the New Harbor Landing. All approved uses of New Harbor Landing and ramp are at owner’s risk.

Commercial Boat Storage:

- Long Term Storage – Long term commercial boat storage allowed for commercial boats unavailable to be easily transported across public ways and roads as defined by the Harbormaster. Long term storage only allowed in designated area and will be assessed a monthly fee. Vessels will be impounded at owner’s expense if found in violation. Requests for storage will be on a first come, first serve basis.
- Short Term Storage – Short term commercial boat storage allowed for commercial boats for maintenance purposes. Short term storage only allowed in areas that do not interfere with access to the ramp or long term commercial boat storage area.
- Emergency Storage – Emergency commercial boat storage allowed in any available space for the duration of the storm.

Recreational Boat Storage: Unavailable.

Float Storage:

- Commercial Float Storage – Unavailable.
- Recreational Float Storage – Unavailable.

Vehicle Storage:

- Daytime Storage – Daytime parking allowed only in areas that do not interfere with access to the ramp.
 - Overnight Storage – Not allowed unless approved by direct contact with the Harbormaster.”
- All subsequent numbered parts after Part 10 were renumbered.

There was some discussion about the definition of vessel regarding floats. It was decided to keep the wording as is.

On a motion by Ball and seconded by Benner all agreed to hold a public hearing on the ordinance amendments on February 24 at 5pm at the Bristol Town Hall. The draft ordinance amendments will be presented to the Select Board on January 26 for their review and certification.

Mooring Specifications.

There was discussion on mooring ball identification. The mooring application used in previous years states “the number must appear on the mooring buoy”. Benner and Ball made a recommendation to add the name of the mooring owner to the buoy. It was noted that the onlinemooring.com registration system would make it easier to look things up when in the harbor. Caron made a motion to require the mooring permit number and the last name of the mooring owner at least 3 inches in height on mooring balls/buoys, Benner seconded the motion, 6 voted in favor of the motion. Posting a picture of the labelled mooring ball will be required when registering the mooring with onlinemooring.com. A dated photo will be needed so the same photo is not used year after year.

Stolecki pointed out that building stronger relationships with the marine contractors will facilitate management of the harbors.

Miscellaneous.

Stolecki noted that the Comprehensive Plan Committee had contacted him about the number of moorings available in Bristol. Bizarro read out loud an approximate number of moorings in each harbor. Hope noted that there are around 50 moorings in Long Cove but only about 20 are being used.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53pm. The next meeting will be held on February 24 immediately after the Public Hearing at the Bristol Town Office. Agenda items to include: Pemaquid GPS mooring survey

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Bizarro
Harbor Committee Secretary