

**Harbor Committee
Bristol School Gymnasium
January 28, 2021**

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

Also present: Chris Hall, Chad Hanna, Sandra Lane, Laurie Mahan, Clyde Pendleton, Tucker Phinney, Kristine Poland, Lara Sargent

The meeting was called to order at 5:05.

Minutes

Stolecki requested an amendment to the January 14 minutes, page 3, under 'Hanna Landing'. He clarified that the state park and Hanna Landing are both used for emergency response depending on the location of the emergency. On a motion by Ball and seconded by Poland the amended minutes from January 14 were approved unanimously.

General Discussion

Stolecki thanked Hall for the work on Draft 3 of the ordinance.

Discussion started with how the town got into the float storage business. Stolecki thought it was a viable question. Stotz believed it to be a historical decision made before he was a member of the Harbor Committee. K. Poland thought float storage at the landings started from simple accommodation at that time. Stotz thought if a portion of the landings is used for float storage then some portion should be left for use by the public. This space would be used for folks not working with a marine contractor.

K. Poland wondered if float storage at town landings is still a viable option. She suggested floats could be stored at the beach parking lot. Parks would still collect fees from float storage and be responsible for mowing and trash removal at the landings. Harbors would retain control and use of the landing (New Harbor) throughout the year. She added it would provide clarity to the jurisdiction of the landing and it would be open for boat emergencies and maintenance.

Pendleton asked if floats from all landings would be stored at beach park. K. Poland thought floats from New Harbor to start as this was the location of the current problem. Pendleton said there would still be temporary storage of floats as they were hauled in and out.

Sargent and Pendleton had concerns with the softness of the parking lot which is the reason it is gated it in the winter months. Pendleton thought some sort of maintenance on the parking lot would be needed, it would mean more work for parks and they may lose revenue as haulers could store the floats on their own property. Lane suggested an upgrade at the beach entrance for float storage. Hanna thought the town and the Parks Dept. could share the cost responsibility of upgrading the entrance/parking lot. All agreed it was important to get estimates and look at regulations pertaining to any upgrades to the beach parking lot.

Phinney said moving floats over the road is not as easy and requires oversized load permits.

Phinney asked if the money used for the beach parking lot upgrades could be used for upgrades

at New Harbor Landing instead. The work required at the landing (retaining walls, additional clearing and filling for storage) would not provide enough space. Pendleton wondered if the town could buy land from an abutting property owner. Hall offered to contact them.

Benner asked how many of the floats from New Harbor could be moved to Hanna Landing. Pendleton thought another 8-10 floats could fit at Hanna Landing. Benner has no problem with floats being stored at New Harbor if they are kept on the space built for floats and limited to one row. Phinney said it was hard to stack floats at New Harbor Landing.

Stolecki wondered where the enforcement of float storage fell to. The citizens, the Parks Dept. with full-time staff or the part-time Harbormasters?

Town Landing Usage

Stolecki asked if everyone agreed about having an equitable division of usage at the town landings.

Stotz spoke against using landings for float storage. He said the space should be available for everyone to use not just private businesses. He wondered if the proposed ordinance was too specific and thought more flexibility was needed. He liked the idea of using Beach Park for float storage and thought it worthwhile to take some time to determine the best usage of each landing. Stolecki thought it likely that there will be more boats and floats and eventually the resource will be at capacity. Everyone in town has a right to use the landings, one person's priority should not take away usage rights for someone else. Convenience is sometimes mistaken as priority. Stolecki recommended taking time to really understand what the Town wants/needs from its town landings.

Hanna said the term town landing has always been used even if the landing was nothing more than an extension of a road such as Thompson Landing. The town has lost some of its smaller landings over the years. Keeping maintenance records and signs posted is an important part of the Town's ownership of these landings. Stolecki said the Harbor Committee had recently surveyed Thompson Landing and Browns Cove Landing. Hanna suggested focusing on the proper usage of each landing and to make an outline of what is needed/wanted. He said some landings are more commercial, some are more recreational.

Stolecki suggested that everyone leave the meeting with an understanding of our current landings. Lane suggested setting two or three topics for discussion at each meeting.

On a motion by Stolecki and a second by Caron all agreed to create a list of on the present day use of each landing.

Present Day Usage

New Harbor

Commercial water access
Commercial boat storage – long term
Commercial boat storage – maintenance
Commercial boat storage – emergency/storm
Recreational water access
Bristol F&R services
Float storage – winter
Vehicle storage – summer
Transport of product (lobster, seaweed, etc.)
Parking for lunch, walkers

Hanna Landing

Recreational water access
Commercial water access
Bristol F& R services
Float storage - winter
Picnic area
Fishing
Swimming
Paddle sports
Overnight vehicle storage - summer
Kayak storage

Moxie Cove

Recreational water access
Picnic area
Swimming
Paddle sports
Float storage - winter

Brown's Cove, Long Cove, & Thompson Landings

Recreation water access
Parking area
Picnic area

Pemaquid Falls Landing

Recreational water access
Commercial water access (elvers, shellfish)
Picnic area
Fishing
Bird watching

Notes

*Pemaquid Falls Landing is gated from mid-January to 72 hours before the opening of elver season.

*Hope said kayaks are launched at New Harbor so probably shouldn't term New Harbor as commercial. But of all the town landings it has the highest percentage of commercial use.

*Drones are prohibited at Lighthouse Park and Beach Park. Smoking is prohibited on all town properties.

*Ball commented that there was a lot of trash at Thompson Landing. Benner suggested it get cleaned up and then talk to the CEO to determine what can and cannot be permitted there.

*Ball pointed out that Moxie landing went from a nice picnic/swimming area to a 'messy' area used primarily for float storage. Float storage is predominately recreational and there's never enough room for commercial float owners as they are always the last to haul out. Floats owned by non-residents are also being stored there. Pendleton suggested that commercial floats be stacked on recreational floats.

*Benner wondered if residents vs non-residents be considered when discussing usage of the landings. Stolecki suggested tabling the discussion of resident vs non-resident until the next meeting.

*Pendleton would like to see verbiage in the ordinance about permissible overnight parking and storage of vehicles at the landings. In New Harbor vehicles and trailers use the float storage area in the summer months.

*Mahan thought Hanna Landing could be more 'park-like' if floats weren't stored there. K. Poland agreed, stating recreation usage could be important when applying for grants.

*Lane would like to see the Town put more money towards all of its landings.

Budget

The Harbor Committee's balance carried for 2021 is \$40,798.07. The Town's auditor has suggested splitting this amount to \$20,000 in the Town Landings and Harbor's capital reserve and use the remaining \$20,798.07 as the balance carried. All members agreed to this.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm. The next meeting will be held February 11, 2021 at 5pm at the Bristol School gymnasium.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Bizarro
Harbor Committee Secretary