

**Harbor Committee  
Bristol School Gymnasium  
February 11, 2021**

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

*Also present: Jamie Brinkler, Sandra Lane, Clyde Pendleton, Kristine Poland, Lara Sargent, Mark Zaccadelli*

The meeting was called to order at 5:03.

**Minutes**

On a motion by R. Poland and seconded by Hope, the minutes from January 28 were approved unanimously.

**Pemaquid Falls Landing Access.**

Commercial shellfish harvesters often use the Pemaquid Falls landing as an access to the upper portion of the Pemaquid River estuary. In mid-January, the Parks Dept. installed a gate and lock to prohibit camping during the elver fishing season. The Shellfish Committee members requested a key for the lock so they could still use the landing. The Town Administrator and Highway Dept. decided to put a coded padlock on the gate. This code was shared with the Shellfish Committee members.

**Ordinance Discussion.**

Stolecki asked everyone where they would like to start. Pendleton suggested keeping the discussion strictly to New Harbor Landing. Stolecki reviewed the previous meetings with marine contractors, Brinkler and Zaccadelli.

New Harbor Landing

- Commercial water access. Hope would like to see more storage and access for commercial boats as shorefront property is becoming scarce. He asked for a definition of commercial water access. Stotz also spoke in favor of more commercial storage and access. Stolecki asked if everyone agreed that commercial water access stay on the usage list, all agreed.
- Commercial boat storage – long term. Long term is considered 6 months. Moved by Stolecki, seconded by Benner, all approved.  
Pendleton suggested 7 days. Benner suggested seasonal storage for long term and 7 days for maintenance. Pendleton thought the town landing should be available for people to use, not for long term boat storage. Space is limited with or without float storage and the space would be better served for maintenance storage and emergencies. Benner said seasonal boat storage is in the winter months when the landing isn't used for much else. Stolecki suggested if commercial boat storage is allowed then commercial float storage should also be allowed. Pendleton thought there should be a charge for long term boat storage and asked for the definition of long term. The committee all agreed seasonal. Pendleton countered with seasonal is too open ended. Benner suggested the season length could be determined by the Harbor Master but thought a 6-month winter/summer timeframe would work. Pendleton asked about short-term storage. Stolecki and Benner said 7 days.
- Commercial boat storage - maintenance. 7-day limit to be extended with approval of the Harbor Master. Moved by Benner, seconded by Hope, all approved.
- Commercial boat storage – emergency storm usage. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Hope, all approved.
- Recreational water access. Moved by Caron, seconded by Ball, all approved.

- Bristol Fire & Rescue services. A given. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Benner, all approved.
- Float storage – winter. Commercial float storage only. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Caron, six in favor, one opposed. Benner requested the current float storage area be used for commercial floats. Commercial float storage will be no longer than 8 months. Moved by Benner, seconded by R. Poland, all approved.
- Vehicle Storage – summer. Overnight parking by permit up to 7 days. Moved by Caron, seconded by Benner, all approved. Permits may be obtained through the Parks Dept. Hope said overnight parking is currently not a problem.
- Transport of product. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Hope, all approved.
- Parking for lunch, walker. All agreed to remove this usage item.
- Management responsibility. Commercial float storage area, Parks Dept.; rest of landing, Harbor Committee. No vote taken.

Brinkler and Zaccadelli thought New Harbor landing should be used commercially and that Hanna Landing was better for float storage. Float owners will have to figure out how to store floats on their own property if there's not enough room at the landings. Stacking floats is possible and they forward the cost to the float owner. Pendleton and Sargent commented they did not know how many floats are stored at any of the landings as they had not received a list from the haulers.

Stolecki noted this discussion wouldn't be necessary if there was a just and orderly operation at the town landings. All agreed that one particular hauler was causing most of the float storage problems at the landings.

Pendleton thought it unfair the Harbor Committee was creating the ordinance. He thought the responsibility of creating the ordinance should lie with the Board of Selectmen. He stated the ordinance impacts the Parks Dept. and they should have input. K. Poland stated the Selectboard charged the Harbor Committee to make a recommendation. She proposed that the Parks Dept. discuss recommendations at their next meeting and bring those recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

#### Questions/Concerns.

- ∞ Can a landing be commercial only?
- ∞ Suggestion to differentiate between commercial and recreational floats.
- ∞ Why does the town provide private entities a place to conduct business?
- ∞ Floats left on or near the ramp by derelict haulers could cause problems if an emergency response was needed.
- ∞ Can the landing be used to work on floats for a day or two?
- ∞ Are floats considered commercial because they are part of a marine business or because it's temporarily under control of a marine contractor.
- ∞ Will a young marine contractor just starting a business be able to make a living if they don't have the equipment to haul floats off the landing?

#### Hanna Landing

- Recreational water access. Moved by Benner, seconded by R. Poland, all approved.
- Commercial water access. Moved by Hope, seconded by R. Poland, all approved.
- Bristol Fire & Rescue services. A given. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Hope, all approved.
- Float storage – winter. Storage available to Bristol residents/taxpayers in designated areas only for up to 8 months. Moved by Benner, seconded by Caron, all approved.
- Picnic area. Moved by Benner, seconded by Caron, all approved.

- Fishing. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Benner, all approved.
- Swimming. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Hope, all approved.
- Paddle sports. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Hope, all approved.
- Overnight vehicle storage – summer. Allowed by permit through the Parks Dept. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Hope, all approved.
- Paddle craft storage. Allowed by permit through the Parks Dept. Moved by Benner, seconded by R. Poland, all approved.
- Recreational boat storage with permit. Permits may be obtained through the Parks Dept. Moved by Benner, seconded by R. Poland, all approved. Stolecki thought boats on trailers would be the mostly likely storage scenario. Pendleton wondered about charging fees for this type of storage. Zaccadelli suggested charging by the length of the boats.
- Management responsibility. Predetermined by the Board of Selectmen. Below high-water, Harbor Committee; above high-water, Parks Dept.

Currently Hanna Landing is a mess due to one float hauler. Zaccadelli and Brinkler are concerned they may lose storage rights because one float hauler isn't following the rules. It is unlikely they will move floats to the beach parking lot, instead they will encourage their customers to store floats on their own property. They both agreed that storing floats at the landings is convenient for marine contractors but understood if the town did not want to allow float storage.

Brinkler wondered if the conversation could be tabled so the contractors could work with the Parks Dept. to clean up and organize float storage at Hanna Landing. The landing could be divided into spaces which are rotated each year as spaces closer to the water are more desirable. Stolecki thought the picnic area should be left clear year-round.

K. Poland suggested clear delineation of management responsibility between the Harbor Committee and Parks Dept., define who will enforce the ordinance and set steep fines and fees. One option is to allow current usage and just focus on enforcement. Stolecki wondered about the availability of enforcement. Pendleton asked if it had to be in an ordinance. K. Poland said ordinances carry more weight than policies. Stolecki suggested determining the usage of each landing first, and then determine violation fees.

#### Moxie Cove

- Recreational water access. Moved by Benner, seconded by Hope, all approved.
- Picnic Area. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Ball, all approved.
- Swimming. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Caron, all approved.
- Paddle sports. Stolecki wondered if recreational boating and paddle sports were redundant classifications. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Hope, all approved.
- Float storage – winter. Storage available to Bristol residents/taxpayers in designated areas only for up to 8 months. Moved by Caron, seconded by Benner, all approved.
- Management Responsibility. Below high-water, Harbor Committee; above high-water, Parks Dept. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Ball, all approved.

Ball thought float storage should be prioritized for commercial fisherman and resident/taxpayers of Bristol. Sargent said she has received complaints about the stored floats from Moxie Cove neighbors. Brinkler said there are 18 floats being stored there.

### Brown's Cove, Long Cove & Thompson Landings

- Recreation water access. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Hope, all approved.
- Parking area. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Hope all approved.
- Picnic area. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Hope, all approved.
- Management responsibility. To remain with the Harbor Committee. Moved by Ball, seconded by Benner, all approved.

Discussion. The Harbor Committee has recently surveyed Brown's Cove and Thompson Landing with plans to do Long Cove Point. Bizarro asked if the delineation of authority is the high-water mark would Parks continue with the survey project. Pendleton said no as this draft ordinance had not been approved at a Town Meeting yet. Bizarro asked the committee if they would consider maintaining authority of all three landings above and below the high-water mark.

### Pemaquid Falls Landing

- Pendleton requested if all usages of this landing be voted on in one motion. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Stotz, all approved.
- Recreational water access, Commercial water access, Picnic area, Fishing, Birding. Moved by R. Poland, seconded by Caron, all approved.
- Management responsibility. To remain with the Parks Dept. Moved by Stolecki, seconded by Benner, all approved.

### **Other Business.**

Stotz asked if the Harbor Committee would support LD 101 - An Act To Prohibit Offshore Wind Energy Development This bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

### **New Harbor Landing.**

Benner said two floats are in violation. One was left in the middle of the landing and the other is in the float storage area but very close to the edge of the road. It could be a hazard for snowplowing. Hope will contact NHMC to have both floats removed by Tuesday, February 16 at 4pm. If floats still remain, they will be moved to the Transfer Station at the haulers/owners expense. Moved by Poland, seconded by Benner, all approved. If Hope is unable to reach NHMC by phone, Bizarro will send an email.

### **Round Pond.**

Ball said the waiting list for Round Pond increased from 60 to 80 over the past few months.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm. The next meeting will be held on February 25 at 5pm at the Bristol School gym. Agenda items to include: Hanna landing regulations, fines and penalties

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Bizarro  
Harbor Committee Secretary