

**Harbor Committee
New Harbor Fire Station
May 19, 2022**

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

Also present: Devin Benner, Michel Burgess, Richard Cheney, Sandy Davis, Mike Dawson, Jason Lord, Kris Martin, Billy McLain, Matthew Monroe, Mark Moody, Matt Moody, Max Moody, Mike Prior, Zach Stotz, Chris Williams, Dianne Williams, Donald Wotton, Merritt Wotton, Mitchell Wotton, Myles Wotton, representative from the Hardy Boat

The meeting was called to order at 5:04pm.

Hope opened the meeting by explaining why the Harbor Committee had requested the round table meeting. For the past several years, boats used for commercial fishing have increased in size. Most recently a commercial fisherman (Moody) who owned a 32' boat had a new boat built. The new boat measures 44' with additional footage for a tailgate mounted on the stern. The new boat can no longer fit in the mooring berth that held the 32' boat without obstruction to other moorings and boats.

Stolecki stressed that the committee doesn't want to refuse mooring privileges, but the physical capabilities of the harbor cannot keep supporting increased boat sizes. If boats are too big for their berths and causing damage to others, people will look to the Harbor Committee for arbitration. He reminded everyone that the vessel on a mooring is to be the same vessel that is described on the mooring permit.

Points of Discussion:

- Have New Harbor dredged. Unfortunately, impediments such as floats and ramps, have encroached into the dredging area. ACOE will not dredge again until these impediments are removed. Dawson thought dredging might be bad for lobsters and wondered where the fill from dredging would be dumped. T. Benner thought the harbor's commercial industry wasn't big enough to warrant dredging.
- Prior commented that the committee couldn't stop commercial fishermen from buying bigger boats. He thought the fishermen could work it out by working together. Prior thought the new 44' boat could stay at its existing berth if the mooring was jiggled back a little bit. T. Benner wondered how long they could keep jiggling moorings around so everyone can fit in the harbor. Stolecki wondered if all nearby mooring owners are willing to move their moorings to accommodate the bigger boat.
- T. Benner advised that Moody should have contacted the Harbor Committee before bringing the boat into the harbor. Prior asked if they needed permission to buy or build a new boat. The committee responded that an open line of communication works better for everyone.
- Martin asked what would happen if waterfront property sold and the new owner has a bigger boat than the previous owner. The Harbor Ordinance states that waterfront property owners have first priority depending on space available.

- McLain wondered if everyone had the right amount of chain. Several people said they have shortened their chains recently. It was suggested that contractors may run more chain than necessary. Lord and Hope spoke about mooring systems and guidelines for length of chain, etc. which are provided by the MHMA.
- D. Benner, mooring owner NH 45, offered the use of his mooring to Moody. This mooring is in the eastern part of the harbor. Moody has moved his boat there, but it has come in contact with the pennants of nearby moorings, NH 25 and NH 22. D. Benner agreed to permanently switch mooring berths with Moody. Hope asked if Moody could remove the tailgate. His father replied it would be tough to get off as it has been welded on.
- D. Wotton asked if there was a way to remove moorings as people retire or pass away. Stolecki said it would depend on demand.
- It was noted the Hardy Boat (NH 22) is not in the harbor year-round.

There was general discussion about tides, winds and swing of boats.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53. The next meeting will be held on May 26 at 5pm at the Bristol Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Bizarro
Harbor Committee Secretary