

**Harbor Committee  
Bristol Town Hall  
December 10, 2020**

*Present: Robert Ball, Troy Benner, David Caron, Rick Poland, John Stolecki, John Stotz  
Also present: Chris Hall, Chad Hanna, Sandra Lane, Leon MacCorkle, Laurie Mahan, Clyde Pendleton, Lara Sargent*

The meeting was called to order at 5:03. This meeting was called by request of the Selectmen. They have asked the Harbor Committee and the Parks and Recreation Department to collaborate on an amendment to the Harbor Ordinance or a creation of a Town Landing Ordinance.

**General Discussion.**

Stolecki asked what kind of time frame is needed to approve an ordinance for Town Meeting and whether there was enough time to have it ready. Bizarro went over the timeline for public hearings and the deadline for having the warrant ready to print in the Annual Town Report. A public hearing must be held at least 10 days before the Town Meeting with a 7 day public notice given on Bristol's website and the LCN. She pointed out that any substantive changes made to the proposed ordinance in the first public hearing would need a second public hearing and another 7 day public notice must be given. The print deadline for the Annual Town Report usually falls in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of February.

Hall indicated that the ordinance he had written was a very rough draft. He expressed he did not know a lot about the Town's harbors and/or landings. He wrote the ordinance based on what he knew about the responsibilities of how the landings work. He was asked to do this by the Selectmen.

Benner stated the Harbor Committee has always been the authority at New Harbor Landing and that the authority was approved by the Selectmen in previous years. Benner reported the float population at the landing has doubled in the past few years. Float haulers do not stack the floats in the appropriate area, and they leave them in areas that hinder the use of the landing and the ramp. New Harbor is predominantly a commercial harbor and Benner and Stolecki both thought the Harbor Committee should have final authority at the landing.

Hall pointed out that the current crisis is about the limited amount of space at New Harbor Landing. He was unsure of how boat storage at the landing would work as Bristol does not currently have a fee schedule or a way to say first come first serve. Hanna questioned how much long-term boat storage is available. All agreed one row at the current placement is enough room for boat storage. Pendleton wondered if it was possible for the town to buy another 100 ft from abutting property owners on the SW corner of the landing.

Stolecki recommended to start working with the draft Town Landings Ordinance. He pointed out that boat storage needs to work differently than float storage. He suggested a set definition of New Harbor Landing. Such as who is responsible for what portion. For example, Parks and Recreation maintain the mowing and trash removal and do the things the Harbor Committee does not have resources to do. All agreed there should be designated areas for boat storage, float

storage, a space for repairs and an emergency access zone. Pendleton recommended signs to keep the ramp clear. Poland suggested restricting the number of floats stored at the New Harbor Landing. As Harbor Master Hope was not present at the meeting, Stolecki suggested that Hope approve any changes and delineation before any final decision is made.

Ball pointed out that Moxie Cove landing is full, and the floats are not being stacked. This has caused more and more floats to be stored around the edges of the harbor. It was also noted that floats from Louds Island are being stored there and this may be taking storage space from Bristol residents and taxpayers.

Hanna emphasized that the purpose of this meeting and ordinance is to have something documented on paper to fall back on if use of the landing is abused. It is not to meant to penalize anyone but provide guidance when disagreements or abuse of the landings occur. An ordinance is the best way to manage the landings as it has the support of the legislative body. Hanna recommended listing each landing and defining storage areas with sketches. Pendleton agreed, stating that each landing has different storage needs and uses. Stolecki also agreed, stating that circumstances arise when a problem becomes evident.

### **Ordinance Review – First Draft.**

#### **Part 2, Responsibility and Jurisdiction.**

Hanna suggested forming a chain of command. Example. The Harbormaster would be in control of the landing. He could then fall back to the Harbor Committee with concerns/problems and then the Harbor Committee could fall back to the Board of Selectmen.

It was suggested to move the responsibility of boat storage to the Harbor Committee. Stolecki pointed out that the storage at each landing must be a continuous collaboration between the Harbor Committee and Parks and Recreation Department.

#### **Part 3, Use of Town Boat Ramps and Floats.**

Stolecki reviewed the history of how Hanna Landing has been used. The Harbor Committee originally did not limit the size of boats as they wanted to provide a place for young commercial fisherman to tie up without incurring the cost of having a mooring. Currently, Hanna Landing is being used more by recreational boaters. He also pointed out that dinghies being tied up at the landing have increased in size over the years because recreational boaters are buying bigger dinghies to get to their moored boat. It was discussed whether the size of dinghies should be the same for all town landings. It was discussed whether a time limit should be in place for loading and unloading on Hanna Landing.

#### **Part 4, Use of Town Landing Onshore Property.**

4b. In addition to allocating space for vessel and float storage, an emergency area also needs to be defined at each landing.

4d. “at the discretion of the harbormaster” needs to be added.

4e. No changes were suggested but there was discussion of the definition of boat cradles.

#### **Part 6, Definitions.**

The definition of vessel should differentiate between boats and floats.

Part 7, Penalties.

No changes. Discussion about local law enforcement (LCSO) and its duties.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm. The next meeting will be held January 14, 2021 @ 5pm. Agenda items to include: review of second draft of proposed Town Landings Ordinance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Bizarro  
Harbor Committee Secretary