

Public Meeting

October 1, 2003

4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Kerry Adams, Heather Bruce, Melville Cote, Beverly Dwyer Ormston, Gerard Irmer, and Joseph Patrick.

Members Absent: none

Advisory Staff: Keith Bergman and Jon Gilmore

Harbor Master: Chris Flavell

Pier Manager: Rex McKinsey

The meeting was called to order promptly at 4:30 p.m.

Rex McKinsey asked to be kept in the loop and notified of each meeting. He was told he would be.

Public Statements:

Keith Bergman speaking on the hand-out, dated October 1, 2003 and referring to the Provincetown Harbor Plan Amendment Process, told the group that the staff had met with Truman Henson last week; Heather Bruce was in attendance. Mr. Henson is anxious to meet with the Harbor Committee and promised to avail himself of the opportunity some time in October.

Keith, explaining timing and functions, explained that the Harbor Plan was submitted to the state and that the Committee is the body that amends the plan if they feel amendments are necessary. Any amendments have to be ready to go before the town meeting in April 2004 and then get submitted in May 2004 to the state. If you love the plan – just submit a letter and it'll get renewed. Mr. Bergman suggests a lot of public input and staff input, as well, is needed. Issues around Chapter 91 licensing may be hot issues – right now. He also advised the Committee to strategically target the items they want to focus on. The hand-out is an outline on how to handle this. He also felt it would be useful to have a sub group from the Committee meeting regularly with staff on harbor concerns, further suggesting that at the end of each meeting a schedule of things that need to be accomplished by the next meeting be drawn up. An effort to look for input from people who have interest in the outcome. Also, Board members can participate even if they have an interest in the matter. An ethics rule on same was cited (greater than 10% rule).

Beverly noted that approximately 70% of the harbor side property owners are in trust and wondered how this skewed the “number crunching?” Staff is working on this issue now was the general answer.

KAB continued, “Harbor Plan does not expire on May 5th just so long as we submit the request – many months may go by before we hear. - Why we need a harbor plan? Answer: Harbor Plan does provide a local document re: Chapter 91.” In any submission the strengths of Provincetown should be mentioned i.e., the new pier, the Pier Management Corporation, etc.

Rex McKinsey felt if we break down into groups – it should go quickly.
KAB countered, “Chapter 91 will take the time.”

Final word of timing was that the warrant for the April town meeting closes on the first Friday in March.

Members Statements

Joe Patrick thanked all the staff for their input, help, etc. Mentioned that Sky Power was unable to find the research he was told she had (Chapter 91 documents). He also spoke to Pat Pajaron and requested a water quality report for this year so we can have a baseline. Jon Gilmore spoke to Center for Coastal Studies (CCS) about water quality of harbor. They already have two stations set up in the harbor and want a budget worked up. A Cultural Tourism meeting at the Fine Arts Work Center (FAWC) was held last week and talk about the harbor as a tourism attraction was warmly received.

Joe would also like to see a law to prevent buildings that prohibit views. He further said he was on a quest to increase membership in the Harbor Committee, referred it to 3 committees and no-one got back to him.

Gerard Irmer went through the plan and found there are a lot of discrepancies. Public town landings are shown in two figures and they don’t agree. And the mission statement????

Heather Bruce attended the meeting of last week that included Truman Henson and felt it was valuable. She then attempted to find out about the Ch 91 documents and couldn’t find them.

Beverly Dwyer Ormston received an e-mail inviting her to a meeting on push carts. Obviously they didn’t have the members of the committee since she was the only one invited. (Rex explained that Mark Latour called for a meeting to focus on push carts.) Even people from the public showed up. Beverly wrote up a report on what some of these comments from the public were. On October 14th this issue will come before the Board of Selectmen (BoS) and they will decide whether to send it on. Rex said you have to have the push carts isolated in town and that’s the reason for the overlay district being proposed (as in mainly on pier). Joe’s concern – does this exclude other areas? Wharf only wants this for the income it would produce. Do we want them only on the wharf?

Motion: A motion was floated to discuss pushcarts at a future meeting and bring it up under new business.

Heather Bruce asked Rex if it would be possible for him to notify us of Pier Corp meetings. Rex said it’s more efficient if we can notify you by e-mail. The next one is October 11th at 3:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Police Station:

Melville Cote had no comments.

Kerry Adams also had no comments.

Minutes

Motion: Joe Patrick made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Gerard Irmer seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0-2 abstentions (MC and KA)

New Business:

Select a new two-month Chairman

Motion: Beverly Dwyer Ormston made a motion to recommend Gerry Irmer, Heather Bruce seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Share new written Mission Statements.

Original statement

"To implement the Municipal Harbor Plan; to provide for the coordination of all harbor elements and activities; and to make recommendations concerning updates and revisions to the Harbor Plan, and changes in Harbor and Shellfish regulations"

Each of the Committee members had an opinion and a proposed new mission statement. It was agreed to table the discussion until the end of the meeting. At the end of the meeting it was decided that Heather would return at the next meeting with a compilation of the statements.

Old Business:

Compile questions for Harbor Master and Chief of police.

Chris Flavell, the new harbormaster, said some of the questions can be addressed now and some need further study. Perceived hot spots, in his opinion, is the entire relationship of town and pier corp, jet skis, mooring fields, redrafting of the mooring regulations, etc. His biggest problem is illegal moorings and the Town is currently revamping the computer system – GPS is being worked on and by the spring we'll have a handle on redefining the mooring field. There are preset areas and obviously it depends on the size of the boats involved, etc.

Beverly likes the idea of standardized mooring balls. "Do you have a plan on maintenance of moorings and how we're going to oversee this?" Answer: "Yes, exactly what is now in the mooring regulations. Now we have only the harbormaster and Duane Steele – it's an understaffed business."

Chris Flavell said he has two questions – Personal Water Craft (PWC) regulations are a nightmare for enforcement and he thinks the law was crafted without any thought for the businesses involved. He further feels it must be tweaked. There are loads of restrictions and maybe we need another channel; it's an environmental mess and must be redone.

Regarding the relationship between Pier Corp, Harbor Committee, and Harbormaster; they are de facto members and should attend each meeting.

Rex McKinsey is inbedded in state law and his job is to run the pier as a business. The pier's two-fold goal is to pay the debt and pay the bills through user fees, etc. He is an administrator with a marketing job. He further said that the second payment of \$198K has been made; he is still negotiating fees. There is no doubt that price increases are in process.

Jon Gilmore wants to give Truman Henson a call. The Harbor Committee gave Jon three possible dates in October; they are the 15th, the 22nd, and the 29th. Jon also wants names of the members of the Committee who opted to be members of the working group who will be meeting with staff regularly.

Beverly said it was her job to call the DEP to get copies of the Chapter 91 licenses that have been

issued. That has been done and if the files are found, there is a file cabinet outside of Jon Gilmore's office that can be used. Joe and Heather volunteered to file the missing Chapter 91 files whenever they are located.

Push carts were a revisited topic. Beverly reported on all the reasons she heard at the meeting. After a bit of elaborating of why she agreed with many of those at the meeting, the following motion was made:

Motion: Joe Patrick made a motion that the Harbor Committee remain neutral and non-committal on push carts. Melville Cote seconded the motion and after a great deal of discussion the final vote was 2 in favor and 3 opposed (GI, HB, BDO) The motion did not carry.

Beverly felt that since the group is an advisory committee, it would make sense to attend the October 14th BoS meeting in order to voice opinions on the push carts. Gerry felt the financial impact of the pushcarts were not the concern of the Harbor Committee.

A motion to adjourn was gleefully made at 6:35 p.m.

Kerry Adams left at 6:14 p.m. so he was not privy to the push cart debate.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Gaudiano

Evelyn Rogers Gaudiano

Approved by _____ on _____, 2003.