

Town of Thomaston
Harbor Committee
Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, December 20, 2022
Select Board Room
5:00 pm

A. Call to Order

B. Approval of the Minutes of November the Meeting

C. Budget

D. Adjourn

Thomaston Harbor Committee
November 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1705 pm by Thomas Turansky.

Present in the Thomaston Select Board Meeting Room: Peter McCrea, Robert Armstrong, Josh Rowan, Thomas Turansky, Patti Dinse and David Hynd.

Also present was Sgt. Hanson, Harbormaster.

Mr. Turansky informed the Committee that the first order of business was the election of a Chairperson and Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. McCrea nominated Mr. Turansky for Chairperson and Ms. Dinse nominated Mr. Armstrong as Secretary. There were numerous seconds to the nominations. There being no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed and upon motion, duly seconded and made, it was:

VOTED: To elect Mr. Turansky as Chairperson and Mr. Armstrong as Secretary.

Mr. Turansky then turned the attention of the Committee to the minutes of the May 10, 2022 meeting of the Committee. Mr. Armstrong noted several corrections that should be made and upon motion by Mr. Turansky, duly made and seconded by Mr. Rowan, it was:

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the May 10, 2022 meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Turansky then invited Sgt. Hanson to give his report. Sgt Hanson reported that the harbor had quite a few visitors and happy customers this season. Approximately \$1,500 in dockage fees were collected from customers, including the yacht *Pelagic* which spent many nights on the dock. There was discussion regarding a potential increase in fees to \$1.50 per foot per night. Sgt. Hanson related that he had used his discretion in assessing fees during the season, assessing what the visiting yachtsmen could pay. Given the success in fees raised this summer, it was the sense of the Committee that we should continue to allow the Harbormaster to use his good judgment in assessing dockage fees. The harbormaster noted that the dock sign had been replaced, although it should be adjusted for greater visibility.

The discussion then turned to the Harbormaster boat and outboard engine. The Town does not have a suitable boat for the outboard motor that it owns. The outboard motor is currently stored at Jeff's Marine at an annual cost of \$100. Mr. Rowan offered a boat that he owns to the town, however, there was confusion as to whether the boat was registered. Sgt. Hanson will be able to determine the registration status of the boat through his access to the State of Maine databases. While the gift of the boat from Mr. Rowan was appreciated, there was discussion as to whether a hard sided boat would be the ideal watercraft for potential rescue missions or venturing out on the clam flats. Mr. Armstrong volunteered to check with Lyman Morse Boatbuilding to see if any yacht owners might have a rubber dinghy that might be capable of handling the Town of Thomaston outboard motor. Additional discussion was held on where the town boat might be moored. It was noted that the town dock might not be the best locale for storage due to lighting issues and the potential for vandalism. Mr. Armstrong noted that

Jeff's Marine had volunteered to have a spot in its dock for the Harbormaster boat which would be preferable due to the nighttime lighting at the facility.

Mr. Rowan brought up the possibility of a group of tall ships coming into Thomaston harbor for a night in a coming season. There was also discussion of the potential of social media to attract visitors to the harbor, however, there was concern over potential costs. This issue was left to the Harbormaster discretion.

Mr. McCrea then updated the Committee of the Town's acquisition of the Kiln Parcel Site adjacent to Wadsworth Street. The purchase was completed in early summer. There has been a partial cleanup of debris and removal of unwanted brush and tress where allowed. Future activities include the creation of a site plan with an emphasis on waterside access. The Town is seeking grant funding for waterside access development through a Maine Department of Marine Resources Shore & Harbor Grant for a design estimate hopefully using a simple gravel and stone ramp. The engineering firm of Gartley & Dorsky has been engaged and is working on this. Site plan elements to be considered/discussed:

- Waterside access options
- Watercraft loading/offloading area(s)
- Vehicle parking area(s) with safe entry/egress
- Secure storage rack(s) for watercraft
- Picnic area with trash collection (in place)
- Kiln history visuals
- Safety fencing at North side heights (poles in place, top & bottom)
- Security lighting
- Fishing area, ideally separate from launching area
- Info kiosk (tides, area map, local knowledge, hazards, required personal safety flotation)
- Port-a-John
- Streetside signage
- Possible relationship with Maine Sport

There is much work to be done and ample opportunities for volunteer help to make some of the items noted above happen.

Mr. McCrea then brought up the issue of the West end moorings, specifically the Epiphanes and Jeff's Marine moorings. The town's 5,000-pound mooring block's staple had broken during the year and its replacement used a 1,300-pound block. Consideration should be given to replacement of the 1,300-pound block with a 5,000-pound block to provide a more suitable mooring, especially in the event of a storm.

The issue of the lack of an Assistant Harbormaster was briefly discussed, but not action was taken.

The need for another meeting to the Harbor Committee before the New Year was discussed and it was felt that we should meet to approve the budget for the fiscal year 2023. A potential date of December 20, 2022 was proposed; however, the actual selection of the meeting date was left to the Chairperson to be communicated at a later date.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, upon motion, duly made and seconded, it was:

VOTED: To Adjourn.
6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W. Armstrong, III
Secretary