

Chilmark Harbor Advisory Committee

Minutes for October 7, 2022 Meeting

The Harbor Advisory Committee met on October 7, 2022 at 9:00AM at the Chilmark Town Hall in the Select Board Meeting Room, 2nd Floor.

Those who attended the meeting were the Harbormaster, Ryan Rossi; commercial fisherman, John Larsen, and Peter Neilley of the Climate Change Committee. HAC members who attended the meeting were Steve Broderick, Fred Khedouri, Jeff Maida, Sue Murphy, and Deb Hancock. Members absent were Wes Brighton, Andy Goldman, Wayno Iacono and Select Board liaison, James Malkin.

1. There was a typo correction and the minutes for the August 5, 2022 meeting were approved with that correction.
2. The relocation of moorings as requested by the shellfish constable and commercial fisherman was discussed. John Larsen said he had noticed there is no eel grass in the area of Hariph's Creek and suggested moving the moorings so the sweep of the chains on moorings will not prevent the eel grass from growing. Sue Murphy said there have been moorings in that area for over 20 years. John said there is no eel grass around Quitsa and the one or two moorings in the channel were usually in a deep hole in the bowl.

Ryan Rossi said there are definitely more moorings, and they are more heavily used since he was hired as they have been monitoring the use of moorings and if permit holders are not using them, they go to the next on the list and the new permit holders often have larger boats and use them more frequently than those in the past.

Ryan suggested that a short-term fix would be to relocate the moorings between Hariph's Creek and the entrance to Muddy Cove over by Iscol's. For a long-term fix rather than using mushroom moorings with chains that newer Helix (?) moorings that are driven into the ground and have bungee cord attached the fishermen would still be able to drag around them. He also stated that this would require further research.

Jeff stated that in general all boats are larger than they used to be. Ryan stated he thinks we should do what the shellfish constable and the shell fishermen are requesting. Steve stated the shell fishing community is our identity and we shouldn't ruin what we have. There was much discussion regarding potential ways to alleviate the problem in the future, not reissuing permits when someone gives one up. The commercial moorings that Jonathan Mayhew has 25 of and Sue Murphy has 15, when they are done, do not reissue. Steve suggested using stakes like they have in Edgartown. Ryan said something like that would help. Fred stated he had a mooring up in that area 30 years ago and there used to be tons of eel grass at the time. There was further discussion of the pros and cons of Helix moorings and other ideas. Fred stated we are one of three places on the eastern seaboard with bay scallops and we should do what we must, to protect the eel grass.

There were no shellfish committee members who attended the meeting.

Jeff asked for a motion. Deb Hancock made a motion to do what the shell fishermen and the shellfish constable are asking and recommend that to the Select Board. Fred seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Jeff asked for the Board to hold comments and questions on the Harbormaster's update on the 2022 summer season, as many were included individually on the agenda. Harbormaster, Ryan Rossi, read his report.
4. Harbor maintenance projects were discussed at length, particularly the scope of work to raise the channel dock that has been underwater at high tide for many years. A motion was made and seconded to proceed with harbor maintenance projects. It was passed unanimously.
5. Slip and mooring Assignments were discussed. Ryan said there may be a turnover for one slip on the channel dock. Andy Italiano has not used as stated in the Rules & Regs so that would be coming up. It was discussed that Carl Leaf's slip is coming available for the 2023 season and Lenny Clarke's is the next one in line for the slip. This presents a problem since Jen Clarke has one of the 4 charter slips. In Ryan's report he stated that Jen Clarke requested they be able to keep both slips as one is for charter, and one is for

personal use. There was discussion that allowing one family to have more than one slip, is in direct violation of the Rules & Regs. it is not fair to everyone else in town that doesn't have any slip and may have been on the list for 20 years or more. Jen can still run her charter business off the west dock if they choose to take the slip on the Small Boat Floating Dock and give up the charter slip. Ryan said there is no one in line for the charter slip, so it was suggested that it could be rented to transient boats until an application is received requesting a charter slip. A motion was made to recommend to Select Board that the Rules & Regs should be followed and the Clarkes should only be allowed to have one slip. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

6. Moorings and Dinghies. Ryan stated the dinghy dock at Quitsa has been an ongoing problem for years and suggested a launch service. There was much discussion, and it was the consensus that a launch service would create a nightmare in an already congested area with limited parking and a blind driveway to access State Road. Fred said at some point we should have a comprehensive discussion to investigate alternatives to a launch. There was discussion about extending the dock for dinghies, but that did not seem to be a solution either. Sue stated that Zodiacs take up significantly more space than smaller rowboats, kayaks, etc and perhaps we could limit width(?).
7. Proposed changes to the Chilmark Waterways Rules and Regulations. There was much discussion regarding changes. Several edits were agreed to. Ryan asked if we would vote to recommend. Deb Hancock said she would like to see all the agreed changes in writing before voting. Ryan is making edits and the HAC will be able to read and approve before they are sent to the Select Board.
8. Issuing and record keeping of Filled Dock Parking Permits. There was much discussion on this topic. There is to be record of parking permits issued. Oyster farmers get one permit. Limit on temporary permits. Fred suggested a slip number on the permits and that each slip be allowed two. There was discussion regarding the possibility of stickers instead of the window tags. That the year should be clearly stated on the parking permit.
9. The HAC discussed that we advise the Select Board to require the Chilmark Police Dept to have a continued presence in Menemsha and it should not be the sole responsibility of the Harbormaster's crew. Menemsha is a nightmare,

people argue with traffic “police”, but they listen to police in uniforms. It was voted unanimously to have the chairman write a letter to the select board making this request.

10. Ryan asked for the recommendation of the committee to remove Stanley Larsen’s boats from the commercial dock for non-use, per the Rules & Regs.

The HAC reaffirmed that the rules should be applied and there must be demonstration of use. Notice should be given now. We believe this rule should be enforced uniformly. Fred said (something to this effect), “Rules applying to Dutcher Dock are enforceable for personal safety and we recommend that Ryan issue notice to Stanley Larsen that the rules are going to be enforced within a prescribed timeline. The HAC voted unanimously to approve Fred’s motion.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:25AM on October 7, 2022.

Jeffrey Maida

Chairman Harbor Advisory Committee