

CHILMARK HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES FOR JUNE 23,2023 MEETING

The Harbor Advisory Committee (HAC) met on June 23, 2023 at 5:00 pm Chilmark Town Hall in the select boards meeting room.

Committee members who attended were Andy Goldman, Deb Hancock, Fred Khedouri, Wayne Iacono, Susan Murphy, Jeffrey Maida and Harbormaster Ryan Rossi. Absent were HAC members Steve Broderick, Wes Brighton, and select board member James Malkin.

Also in attendance were select board member Marie Larsen, Tim Rich, Jonathan Boyd, Mary Boyd, Scott McDowell, Annette Cingle, Brett Sterns, and Jennifer Clarke.

1. Approve minutes of June 16, 2023 meeting. Minutes were approved unanimously
2. Discuss letter written to the harbormaster from Jonathan Boyd regarding the size of Jennifer Clarke's new boat.

Harbormaster Rossi read the letter he received from Mr. Boyd. Mr. Boyd has concerns about the ability for him to get into his slip, especially in a Northwest wind due to the increase in size of Mrs. Clarke's new boat.

Harbormaster Rossi stated that the paperwork Mrs Clarke submitted for her slip renewal was for her 32' yellowfin.

Mrs. Clarke spoke about the paperwork she submitted in January to Harbormaster Rossi for the renewal of her slip for the year 2023 not being for her new boat. Mrs. Clarke's stated she had no idea she would be purchasing this new boat until a few weeks ago.

Jeffrey Maida asked Mrs Clarke if she spoke with harbormaster Rossi before purchasing a boat that is 7' longer than her previous boat. Mrs. Clarke stated she thinks she had mentioned to harbormaster Rossi that she would possibly be buying a new boat for the upcoming season. Harbormaster Rossi said there was some discussion in the past that Mrs. Clarke would possibly be purchasing a new boat, but none about this particular boat or the increase in size. Harbormaster Rossi stated there is nothing in the Chilmark Waterways Rules and Regulations (CWRR) about having to notify the harbormaster when purchasing a new boat. Harbormaster Rossi said he was not aware of the size of Mrs. Clarke's new boat until it showed up in the harbor.

Harbormaster Rossi said if the boat fits in the slip its not to big for the slip. He feels because it is center console it should not cause damage to the pilings and it does not impede navigation. Harbormaster Rossi feels there have been no violations of the Rules and Regulations. Jeffrey asked Ryan what if the other three Charter slip holders showed up with 39' boats ,would that work for the area ? Ryan stated it would be fine.

In the past harbormaster Rossi said he has only run into someone increasing the size of a boat a few times. Mrs. Clarke asked Ryan what the process was in those situations. Ryan said it was usually a slip holder going from a 20' center console to a 23' center console. Ryan said when John Keene increased the size of his boat John approached Ryan months in advance and Ryan was able to switch slips with another slip holder to accommodate the size increase.

Deb Hancock asked Ryan if all four charter slip holders had 39' boats would Paul Dimaura be able to get to his dock? Ryan said Paul approaches his dock from the West and should have no problems if that were the situation.

Jeffrey asked Ryan about the October 7, 2022 HAC meeting when discussing possible rule changes to the CWRR when Ryan had suggested putting a size limit on boats allowed in charter dock slips to 35' why he felt 35' was the appropriate size limit for that space.

The committee felt that a size limit was already covered under section VII line J. (boats must be appropriate in length and beam for the slip assignment held). Ryan said now seeing a 39' boat in a charter dock slip the size is fine.

Fred asked about the strain the bow lines would put on the pilings with them being so far aft of the bow. Fred said in a strong Northeast wind it would add strain on the pilings and is not a proper way to tie up a boat. Mrs Clarke said that the boat is so wide it rest against the pilings therefore it actually would put less strain on the pilings.

Harbormaster Rossi asked the HAC to make a recommendation to take to the select board.

Susan Murphy stated it's the Harbormasters call, it's his harbor. Scott McDowell would like the committee to take into consideration that in a strong Northwest wind Jonathan would have a difficult time getting into his slip. Someone asked if this is allowed what happens if it becomes a problem. Ryan said it would have to be dealt with in the off season.

Mrs. Clarke said if pilings need to be moved she would pay for that. Jeffrey said you can not just move pilings. Chilmark Waterways Rules and Regulations Section VII line K clearly state when a person increases boat size capability of the slip, an effort will be made to affect a switch in docking space, but there will be no guarantee this can be done and no changes will be made in slip size.

Harbormaster Rossi stated in his judgement the boat in question is of appropriate in size for the slip it's in. Wayne said he feels this is a case of Mrs. Clarke just doing it and asking for forgiveness after the fact. Mrs. Clarke said she had no idea she would be purchases this boat until a few weeks ago.

Tim Rich asked Ryan if the HAC was aware of the allegations of threats that have been made and taken to the Chilmark Police. Ryan said that this is a police matter and should have nothing to do with the decision making of the committee.

Fred said the normal process in December when Mrs. Clarke submitted paperwork for her slip renewal was for her 32' boat. Rules and regulations do not do a good job about what to do if someone gets a different boat after the fact. Ryan said nothing in the CWRR says harbormaster needs to be given prior notification.

Jeffrey said to Mrs. Clarke it would have been neighborly to notify your fellow slip holders of your purchase. After Jeffrey's statement harbormaster Rossi said to the committee you cannot make a recommendation based on your feelings. Harbormaster Rossi started telling the committee about the State Ethics Committee Rules. Andy asked Ryan why he was telling the committee this. Harbormaster Rossi said because of Jeffrey's statement to Mrs. Clarke about being neighborly. Andy felt it was inappropriate of Ryan.

Fred made a motion to make a recommendation that we make no recommendation to the select board. Susan seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, motion passed.

Mary Boyd stated Jonathan is willing to try and make it work.

Tim Rich felt the committee should look into the allegation made to the Chilmark Police Department and see if there is an ongoing investigation.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55

Submitted by
Jeffrey Maida