

FISH CREEK HARBOR COMMISSION
FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2012
GIBRALTAR TOWN CENTER
7:30 A.M.

Call to Order: The Fish Creek Harbor Commission was called to order at 7:34 a.m. by Dave Harris, chairman.

Members Present: Dave Harris, Joel Blahnik, Brian Merkel, Rick Hecker
Paul Woerfel was absent

Also Present: Brian Holan, Andy Crowell, Leigh Zielke, Tom Young, Rick Jacobs and Brian Hackbarth.

Approve Minutes of the Previous Meetings: *It was moved by Merkel, and seconded by Hecker to approve the minutes of March 29, 2012 as written. Motion carried.*

Chair Report: Harris reported the Dock opened on Tuesday May 15th. The boat ramp plates have moved. A trailer got hung up and needs to be repaired. Mike Kahr was out this week to look at. He will try to have repaired by Memorial Day. The approximate cost to weld the plates together for a better fix is to \$4000. That ramp is currently blocked off.

Holan noted that there is also drop off/lip at that ramp. Merkel stated that maintenance has been instructed to put a parking stop there to prevent people from backing to far. It would be nice to include that fix with this repair; Dave will talk to Mike Kahr to see if this could be included in the repair. However, it may need to be a future agenda item. Merkel suggested we look into state funds to possibly renovate that ramp.

Dockmaster report: No issues other than the pump out. The plumber turned on water to the pump-out but did not hook up drain lines. Water then filled in the pump out and submerged the motor. Motor is not working. Holan has contacted our supplier. Original cost was \$2400 last year. The cost to repair is approximately \$2000. Reinhard said they would try to fix. Harris said it should be their responsibility to repair/ replace the motor. Someone will be here today. If we need to cover some costs, a signed request for anything over \$250, will need to come through the office.

Gas prices are coming down; we are .03 cheaper than Egg Harbor.

Todd and Rick will start on mooring inspections. Payments for the inspections have been untimely, would like payment upfront, every mooring needs to be inspected this season. There hasn't been a regular schedule of inspections in the past, would like to determine a regular schedule. Rick and Todd need to get insurance to cover themselves if anything happens post-inspection. This will add to the cost of the inspection and will probably bring the cost to \$300 a mooring, an increase from previous years. They will also be adding cow-tags to the moorings.

Signage on the building has been an issue. Should we continue to allow the many various signs? We have limited size, should we also limit color? Harris suggested no signs for now, Merkel stated some would want signs on the dock box. It was determined to create a uniform sign policy and will be on next month's agenda.

Harbor Commission Town Dock Ordinance Recommendations: We have had an issue with people leaving their dinghies or jet skis tied to the dock and blocking the launch ramp. Need to create a policy that limits time allowed and possible ticketing of those left their for long periods of time. Andy Crowell stated that there is currently a 15 minute parking sign, but we do not have an ordinance in place to ticket those left longer. Is there ability to offer longer periods elsewhere, not near the launch area? Holan stated it would be hard to regulate. Jet skis seem to be the largest problem. Need to create an ordinance to prevent people from blocking the ramp. If the ordinance is truly being abused, we would then have the option to tow the boat out. Who would we use for the towing service? Crowell suggested a \$25 fine. Biggest concern is with those that are abusing the short term tie-up and leaving the boats there days at a time, in some cases. It was determined to create an ordinance and post a sign with rules and fines etc. to monitor the abuse.

It was moved by Blahnik and seconded by Hecker to create an enforceable ordinance to recommend to the town that deters people from leaving their dinghies/jet skis in the launch area for long periods of time; a one hour limit on the non-launch side, and a 15 minute limit on the launch side. Motion Carried.

Mooring Holder Repeat Violations: If a mooring/slip holder has repeat violations, it is in the policy that they may forfeit their space. One mooring holder had 3 instances this spring. It was determined to continue to monitoring. The previous motion may help this instance as well.

Modify rules and policy: Due date was changed in March to January 15th. The 30 day period and grace year has created loopholes. Need to modify rule #12, to state that we can move or relocate moorings. We will look at these ordinances to clean-up in the off-season. It is necessary to hold those in violation accountable. These ordinances are old and need to be updated. There is one mooring holder who has found the loophole. He currently has a smaller boat registered to the larger mooring and had his grace period last year. If he doesn't meet the mooring size requirements this year, he will forfeit the mooring.

It was moved by Hecker and seconded by Blahnik to send letter of noncompliance to tell Mr. Kastner he has 30 days this season to get a proper sized boat registered to the mooring, or he will lose the mooring. Motion Carried.

Dock Flatwork Resurfacing: Building Committee met with Harris to see what needs to be done on the dock. Hockers and M. Anderson have been out to see what needs to be done also. The dock conditions are on our radar to be done in the future. We will communicate in August that this should be written into the budget (Harbor Commission's or Building Committee's budget is to be determined).

Fireworks: July 7, 2012: Fish Creek Civic Association requests assistance at the Summer festival. They request guidance to bring in barge for the fireworks. They will be loading and unloading at the dock. It is the same group and company as last year. Young stated that they are considering the possibility of adding a Venetian boat parade before the fireworks. They would like to reserve the last parking space closest to barge loading ramp. They have contacted the Door County Sheriff's department and will have 3 deputies, Andy and the fire department

available. Mike Neil should be contacted as well. *It was moved by Harris and seconded by Merkel to approve the fireworks request on July 7. Motion Carried.*

Bud Walling larger Boat Request: The Dock policies state that boats up to 50 ft are allowed, anything larger would need the commission's approval. Mr. Walling has requested accommodation for a 53 ft boat. The current slip is 60 ft long. It wouldn't have to be moved.

It was moved by Merkel and seconded by Hecker to approve Mr. Walling's larger boat request contingent upon the fit in the space. He will meet with the Dockmaster or Dave Harris for final consent. Motion Carried.

Dinghy Motor: Problem solved, should be up and running.

Mooring Updates and Availabilities: Two moorings are still available. #5 (less than 20ft) and # 60 (40-45ft) these are both posted on the website. Mr. Ziman (#35) has agreed to the smaller mooring and will be relocating to #6; he has contacted James Berns regarding the mooring tackle. Mooring #35 has been offered to Bob Vertz. Vertz and Ziman are also discussing tackle arrangements.

We had a few passes on the original mooring offers: Beth and Kelly went down the wait list and offered them to those next in line: Tom Carleton decided to stay with #1, Phil Jensen #4, John Hering #49 and Jim VenDenBerg #61.

It was noted that mooring tackle arrangements should be added to ordinances. If the current mooring tackle owner can't come to an agreement on the exchange/sale of their tackle, it is their responsibility to remove the tackle at their own expense. A timeline needs to be created.

Public Comment:

Adjourn: *It was moved by Merkel and seconded by Blahnik to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:54 a.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Murre
Administrative Assistant