

Natural Resources advisory committee Minutes

Thursday November 14, 2024, at 5:30 pm

In Attendance: Tom Robinson, David Reed, Michael Baptiste, Matt Hobart, Greg Martino, Roger Moffat, Noah Mayrand.

Also Present: Recording was Lynne Fraker and Messrs. Hale, Scott and Baptiste were in the audience.

1) Call to Order 5:30 pm: Tom Robinson called the meeting to order.

2) Public Comment: There was no public comment.

3) Input from boatyard managers: James Hale (Martha's Vineyard Shipyard), Chris Scott (Safe Harbor Marinas) and Kim Baptiste (Tashmoo Marina) were all present and invited to provide input to the committee on items they found important for the committee to work on.

Mr. Hale started off with how important a resource the harbor and waterways are and that the committee should be promoting this resource and the services offered along the waterfront. Specifically, participating in the monthly First Friday's event and completing and enhancing the town's DOCKWA site. Also mentioned were a more impactful spending of donations made by Vineyard Wind and trying to increase the embarkation fee derived from the Steamship Authority. Mr. Scott gave examples of how SHM enhanced their DOCKWA site and wanted to make sure the Town was collecting all excise taxes from boats registered in the Town. Lynne Fraker also suggested that the committee go back to hybrid meetings so that residents may more easily provide input to the committee. It was agreed to do this.

Minutes: Minutes from the October 10, 2024 meeting were distributed and read. Greg Martino made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Matt Hobart and voted unanimously **7-0-0** to accept.

Harbormaster's Report: Tashmoo dredging project is complete. It was noted that harbor mooring fee revenue is down and it was attributed to the timing of recognizing receipts and a really bad storm that affected reservations in September.

Other Business: Noah Mayrand noted that he had presented a letter, written by the three aquaculture permit holders in town, at the November 4th Selectboard meeting to locate a piece of town land for the storage of aquaculture equipment when not in use. The selectboard were receptive and a location suggested.

The newly completed ACOE permit was discussed and noted that there are an additional 30 mooring permitted for the town 10 each for the harbor, Lake Tashmoo and Lagoon Pond. Harbor Master Mr. Kovack noted there is time to implement the placement and procurement of the moorings and he would seek infrastructure funds for the moorings.

The committee members were encouraged to attend the upcoming Selectboard Meeting and public hearing where the new Waterways Regulations were going to be considered.

Tom Robinson noted that we will be reviewing the Town's shellfish regulations at the next meeting.

Matt Hobart stated that he will not be available to participate in the Embarkation Committee this year and Tom Robinson said he would look into how a replacement is chosen.

There was a discussion as to if a grant writing committee should be formed.

Adjourn: Noah Mayrand made a motion to adjourn seconded by Roger Moffet. Voted unanimously 7-0-0.