

**TOWN OF BARRINGTON  
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday December 12, 2012**

**PRESENT:** Brian Hunt (Chairman), Paul Dennis, Anne Chapin, Ben Chwalk, Jay Dwyer, and Chip Hawkins, Jim Forester Ed Schottland (Excused Late, Arrived at 8:02)

**EXCUSED:** Mike Reuter

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ray Sousa (Harbor Master), Bill Cost, Anne Strong Town Council Liaison, Paul Dulchinos Planning Board Liaison

- 1) Brian Hunt called to order at 7:33 pm.
- 2) Motion was made to accept the November 14, 2012 minutes by Chip and seconded Anne, all accepted including: Paul Dennis, Anne Chapin, Ben Chwalk, Jay Dwyer, and Chip Hawkins, Jim Forester
- 3) **Harbormasters Report:**
  - a. The mooring registration and letter drafts for the 2013 season were distributed by Ray and reviewed by the Harbor commission, there were a few minor comments noted but the commission took no exception to the letter.
  - b. Ray passed on the following important points from a meeting the town manager held at the end of November:
    - i. The public speaking out is an issue at some of the meetings for the commissions and boards in Barrington, this is dealt with a few different ways by each commission or board: clarifying if each is a meeting or a public hearing; and having section for public comment as an agenda item.
    - ii. When a board makes a vote, all names of the voters should be documented in the minutes.
    - iii. Public documents are available through the town manager, there is a process in place and the town needs to respond within a certain time period.
    - iv. E-mail correspondence between a board member or a committee member and someone from the public should be shared with the entire committee or board so that the communication cannot be misconstrued as partiality.
    - v. If a member of a board or commission is on the board of governors of a party which is before the board or commission then they need to request a recusal form and recuse themselves from the discussion.
- 4) **Discussion on the Main Harbor:**
  - a. Brian Hunt passed on some notes from Ray's conversation with CRMC's Kevin Cute regarding the fairway:
    - i. There is no specific dimension to the width of a fairway designated in the guidelines for Harbor management plans.
    - ii. The approved plan Barrington meets the CRMC guidelines for proper implementation.

- iii. The fairway passage should be visible to boaters and should not be blocked by moored boats.
    - iv. It is understood that for a small percentage of the time that during an out on the ordinary weather or tidal situation the fairway may be further restricted.
    - v. There is no clear definition of "Fairway" in the CRMC regs'
  - b. Ray reported in research he completed with the East Providence, Warren, and Bristol Harbors and determined that only Bristol has a fairway, which is about 50' wide (determined by 3 times the depth)
  - c. Ray distributed a 3-4 year old mooring location chart and a current one, both charts show the fairway on them and the new one proved that there are currently far fewer moorings in the fairway than there were 3-4 years ago. There are currently 3 problem boats that are either in the fairway or conflict with it, Ray is confident they can be relocated to make the fairway clearer for the 2013 season.
  - d. Ray suggested adding additional markers on both sides of the center section of the new bridge, and 2 more sets up the main harbor between the bridge and N4. Ray also suggested contacting the USCG and having them relocate N4 so that is more in line with the corner of the fairway.
  - e. The Harbor Master will do an on the water survey of the perimeter buffer zone in the spring once many of the boats are in the water, for the boats that are closer than 50' to the fixed shore side structures then the owner of the boat and the shore side structure will be contacted.
- 5) There were no Sub-committee meetings this past month so there were no reports to be issued.
- 6) **Chairman's Report:**
  - a. The draft of the letter that Brian wrote with Paul's comments was reviewed. Brian will update the letter to note that a new chart showing the fairway will be created, this chart will have the fairway laid out with GPS coordinates to identify it. The fairway will be 50'. The chart will be updated annually. Brian did not agree to delivering an updated chart to the town council for review annually.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Chip, seconded by Anne and approved by Paul Dennis, Anne Chapin, Ben Chwalk, Jay Dwyer, and Chip Hawkins, Jim Forester Ed Schottland. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:47 PM

Scribed by Ben Chwalk

APPROVED JANUARY 9, 2013