

**TOWN OF BARRINGTON  
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday Nov 12, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Brian Hunt (Chairman), Anne Chapin, Ben Chwalk, Paul Dennis, Jay Dwyer, and James Forster, Mike Reuter, Ed Schottland.

**EXCUSED:** Chip Hawkins,

**ALSO PRESENT:** Ray Sousa (Harbor Master), Ed LeBlanc Coast Guard Waterways Management  
7 Members of the East Bay Rowing Club including Deb Sullivan and Carrie Travers – Other attendees not identified

- 1) Brian Hunt called meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
- 2) Motion was made to accept the October 8, 2014 minutes by Anne Chapin, seconded by Jay Dwyer.  
Motion approved by all: Brian Hunt, Paul Dennis, Anne Chapin, Ben Chwalk, Jay Dwyer, Mike Reuter, Ed Schottland and James Forster
- 3) **Harbormasters Report:**
  - a. The harbor patrol boats are being hauled and Bud King will remove the speed and the fairway markers from the harbor.
  - b. Re moorings. All mooring holders have met the 30 day requirement.
  - c. One mooring holder has given up their mooring.
  - d. No other issues
- 4) **Introduction of Ed LeBlanc:**

Ray Sousa introduced Ed LeBlanc who is from the Coast Guard Waterways Management division.  
Ed is responsible for the aids to navigation and balancing the needs of all who use the waterways in our area.  
He has helped Ray in the past with organization/liaison with the contractor to ensure a safe passageway under the white church bridge during construction.  
Ed has also helped in the resolution of mooring issues at the boundary of the Barrington/Warren lines.
- 5) **Discussion on the East Bay Rowing Club:**

Brian opened the floor for discussion of the request for renewal of the lease with the town by the East bay Rowing Club (EBRC).  
The Parks and Recreation Commission had approved a motion to:-  
*...continue the contract of East Bay Rowing and to allow them to add two additional boats to a total of 10 boats and to lift the space constraints so rowing is now allowed in all areas north of the bridge by the white church.*

(See image below from an e-mail to Merrie DeSisto from Alyssa Collins at the Barrington Recreation Department dated Sept 29, 2014)

\* ~~Motion was approved to continue the contract of East Bay Rowing and to allow them to add two additional boats to a total of 10 boats and to lift the space constraints so rowing is now allowed in all areas north of the bridge by the white church.~~

This discussion of the area of use and number of boats is apparently in Sections 1.c and 1.i of the contract for the renewal of the lease.

There was some confusion and disagreement about the specific wording of the original contract and the new contract. Neither the Harbor Master nor the Chairman of the Harbor Commission had a copy of the contract so there was confusion about the specific wording and what was in the old contract and what is proposed in the new contract.

What followed was a spirited and passionate discussion of EBRC's wants and the concerns of a number of members of the Harbor Commission and the Harbor Master for safety.

The safety issue was of particular concern at this time and over the next 24 months as the construction of the bridge is completed.

Specific comments/areas of discussion included:-

Deb Sullivan of EBRC wanted the space restriction to be lifted so that the rowing club can use the waters south of the white church bridge and referenced a contract dated 4/10/13 which allowed the rowing club boats to go south at the discretion of the person in charge/teaching the specific activities that day.

Ray Sousa the Harbor Master and others reiterated their concern for safety and discussed keeping the operating area limited to north of the bridge.

Ed LeBlanc was asked about roles and responsibilities for safety, especially during construction across navigable waters. He responded that the Coast Guard does not want to set local rules..... but that they, the Coast Guard are always the ones who have to come and save people. However Ed indicated that if there were safety problems/issues during work on the bridge the Coast Guard has a variety of tools to set/establish restricted areas.

Deb Sullivan of EBRC indicated that the typical hours of training were:

Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 9:45 For adults  
2:30 pm to ?? For children  
6:00 pm to 7:00 For children  
6:00 pm to 7:15 For adults

And some on Saturdays.

When the tide is low they like to go south for their training and this is limited to only experienced people.

Carrie Travers of the EBRC indicated that no children go under the bridge.

There was additional discussion about the elimination of any restriction once the bridge construction is complete. Jay commented that apparently EBRC has been using the waters south of the bridge and in the last 2 years there have not been any issues, i.e. they have a good track record for safety.

A motion was proposed by Mike Reuter that:-

**“The Harbor Commission recommend to the town that the activities of East Bay Rowing Club be limited to all waters north of the speed buoy on the north side of the white church bridge”.**

The motion was approved with votes ‘For’ Ben Chwalk, Paul Dennis, Jay Dwyer, and James Forster, Mike Reuter and Ed Schottland.

Anne Chapin voted to oppose the motion.

**6) Harbor Management Plan**

Brian asked if the operating area for rowing clubs and the lease agreement should be part of the Harbor Management Plan – and if yes where should it be placed. It was agreed to place a comment in Section 400-2 as follows:-

**“Activities of the East Bay Rowing Club, or others using the waters of the town which requires a contact with the town, are subject to the biannual lease agreement/contract signed with the Town of Barrington”**

**7) Motion to adjourn**

The motion to adjourn was made by Ann Chapin, seconded by Jay Dwyer. Motion approved Motion approved by all: Brian Hunt, Paul Dennis, Anne Chapin, Ben Chwalk, Jay Dwyer, Mike Reuter, Ed Schottland and James Forster.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:04 PM

Scribed by James Forster

APPROVED

December 10,2014