

MINUTES
Ad Hoc Committee on Town Docks
Thursday, October 13, 2016
Town Hall Annex Conference Room

The meeting convened at 9:00 AM with the following persons in attendance: Linda Murray, John Thurston, Bob Tougher, Adam Tasker, Steve Durgan, and Dave Owen.

As Dave Senecal, the Committee's Chairman, was unable to attend today, and will not be able to attend any future meetings on Thursdays due to a new part-time job, the Committee needed to designate a vice-chairman to run the meeting. John Thurston nominated Bob Tougher as vice-chairman, Adam Tasker seconded the motion, and Bob Tougher was unanimously approved as the Committee's Vice-Chairman and he assumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

The Committee decided to move down the agenda to the discussion item with Jim Rines, as he was in attendance. Mr. Rines stated that the improvements to the Town Docks constructed in 1998 increased the number of boat slips from 38 to 78 boat slips at the Town Docks. He stated that the plan for those improvements was permitted in 1993, and later amended due to an accident. He stated that those improvements at the Town Docks would be difficult to get permitted today, as currently only 9 slips could be permitted now in this location for a marina, but that more might be able to get permitted due to the public use benefits of the Town Docks. He noted that no survey work on a boundary line was performed at that time, and that the last dock is only 120 feet long as opposed to the 140 feet that it was permitted for.

Jim Rines discussed potential changes and improvements at the Town Docks. He noted that the Town Docks could be reduced in width from 8 feet to 6 feet, which might help with getting more slips approved, and that it might be possible to get one additional dock built with an easement to the adjoining property, in addition to extending the last existing dock from 120' to 140', as originally permitted. Steve Durgan questioned him about alternative configurations for the Town Docks, which might result in more boat slips. Mr. Rines agreed that we could look at such alternative configurations. Linda Murray raised a concern that no time limits were posted at the Town Docks.

Jim Rines suggested that we request a meeting with the NH Department of Environmental Services' Wetlands Bureau, to have a discussion about what improvements they might be willing to permit at the Town Docks. Jim Rines agreed to provide a cost estimate for a limited scope of his services to get us through this initial consultation with DES. Along with Jim Rines, a contingent of Committee members and staff, including Dave Senecal, Linda Murray, Steve Durgan, and Dave Owen will also attend the meeting with DES when it is arranged. Senator Bradley will also be asked to join the Wolfeboro delegation.

The minutes of the September 14th meeting were then reviewed. Steve Durgan moved, with Linda Murray seconding, to approve the minutes as submitted, which was then approved unanimously.

The boat tour of other towns' dock facilities was then discussed. Linda Murray said it started in Alton Bay, which has 20 boat slips which are 25' long. Gilford has docks for its island residents. They have a 3 hour time limit, lots of signs and terrible public restrooms. Their docks are 75 feet long and 13 feet wide. Weirs Beach had a huge number of docks but no boats were there. Meredith has a totally different configuration, and a great boat ramp, but only 2 boats were there. They didn't have time to take measurements at the Center Harbor docks, but it was commented that the town docks situation there was "tragic". For the Committee's next meeting, it was decided that those who took the tour of other towns' dock facilities provide photos of the facilities they visited.

There was further discussion about the proposed extended "No Wake" zone in Wolfeboro Bay. It was noted that the existing "No Wake Zone" buoy is very near the Town Docks, perhaps about 50' away from it, instead of the 150' that it is supposed to be. Steve Durgan suggested a compromise on the "No Wake Zone" issue at 300' feet from the Town Docks and marina docks. There was discussion about who is responsible for placing and maintaining the "No Wake Zone" buoys, and it was decided to contact Tom Wachmuth of Dive Winnepesaukee to find out about it. John Thurston suggested that we should have more than one "No Wake Zone" buoy in Wolfeboro Bay.

Dave Owen reported that he had a conversation with Jim Morash, Captain of the M.S. Mt. Washington about the fact that Wolfeboro had established a Committee to look into the possibility of expanding the Town Docks, and Mr. Morash stated that the Mt. Washington would like to be consulted about it before we get too far along with it. He also reported that he had signed off on a dredging permit for the Mt. Washington because it has been grounding upon a sand bar when it berths at the Town Docks due to the low water level in the lake.

It was agreed to invite the Police Department to the Committee's next meeting, to discuss their enforcement efforts at the Town Docks, and whether any amendments to the Town ordinances should be pursued by the Committee. Copies of the pertinent Town ordinances were requested to be sent out to Committee members prior to the next meeting.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Committee on Monday, November 7th at 10 AM in the Town Hall Annex Conference Room. It was moved to adjourn the meeting by John Thurston, seconded by Adam Tasker, and then it was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Durgan, Secretary