



*Division of Ports and Harbors Advisory Council  
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**PORT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024 6:00 PM**

PRESENT: Brad Cook, Chair  
Mike Donahue, Vice-Chair  
Erik Anderson  
Bill McQuillen  
Chris Snow  
Chris Ward  
Geno Marconi, Director, PDA-DPH  
Myles Greenway, Assistant Director, PDA-DPH

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

2. APPROVE MINUTES

McQuillen made a motion to approve the December 13, 2023 minutes, Snow seconded, no further discussion, all members were in favor and the motion passed.

3. FINANCE REPORT

The report for FY ending November 30, 2023 was included in the meeting packet. Director pointed to page 2 highlighted in green, YTD actual is down, this is due to the fact that revenue at the Division is cyclical and subject to variations. For example, 3 salt ships had been cancelled due to delays at the Panama Canal, but they are all coming within the next couple of weeks. Also, it is the start of mooring and pier use permit renewal season so revenue will start flowing in from those areas. The majority of the revenue for mooring and pier use is received during this next 3-month period. Discussion on the shortage in wharfage and dockage, and the administration business unit, which does not have a revenue stream, but expenses are taken out of that business unit. Expenses are actually under budget. The Finance Report has each business unit broken out to see how they are each doing. Discussion on fuel, is it available to recreational boaters? Yes, it's open to the public, discussion about promoting that information to the general public as there may be folks that are unaware of fuel being available in Hampton, Rye, and the Portsmouth Fish Pier. There are signs on the building at the Fish Pier that fuel and ice are available.

#### 4. PISCATAQUA RIVER VESSEL TRANSIT REPORT

The December 2023 report was included in the meeting packet. Each year, just before November, the Irving refinery in New Brunswick shuts down for upgrades and maintenance, and so there is more oil coming in to this port. The typical cargo in Portsmouth Harbor is about a 50/50 split between dry bulk (road salt, gypsum) and liquid (kerosene, diesel). Annual transits of classes of ship and their cargo is tracked annually in detail and that report will be provided at the February PAC meeting. The CSL Tacoma is the largest ship that comes in right now at 665’.

#### 5. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director Marconi reported on, and materials were provided for, the following items from the PDA Board Meeting, December 15, 2023:

- Reports
  - DiTucci/Lawrence Tank Right of Entry extension through 2024-this company fills tankers with saltwater (used for closed system lobster pounds) at the Hampton Harbor Marine Facility
  - Coastal Cruises PowerPoint (handout)-discussion on sizes of ships, referenced a page in the handout compared to a regular cruise ship. The 2 vessels coming will carry either 170 or 100 passengers.
- Approvals
  - Isles of Shoals, lease renewal -Barker Wharf, ISSCo. has been there since the early 1970’s. Further discussion on the history of ISSCo.
  - Final adoption of Overnight Berthing fees-became effective January 1<sup>st</sup>
  - LW Morgridge Right of Entry renewal-another company that fills tankers with salt water for lobster tanks, this one utilizes the Market St. Terminal.
  - Portsmouth Fish Pier, Pier Repairs, acceptance of bid-this is for the pier work to include decking, bracing, new ladders, and mooring hardware. When the contract is signed work will begin. The majority of this project is being funded using ARPA funds, about \$88,000 will be provided by the Harbor Dredge and Pier Maintenance fund, which was approved by the Capital Project Overview Committee.
  - PDA to DOT, transfer of management responsibility for land at Market St. Terminal-this is a small parcel of land at the Market St. Terminal that has a DOT emergency generator on it. The land is still owned by the State, just managed by a different agency.
  - Portsmouth Fish Pier, Concept Study for replacement building-this will be funded by Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Committee, leftover Covid money earmarked for the fishing communities. NH Fish & Game is handling the disbursement of funds and the concept study qualifies as an allowable use of funds. Discussion on the condition of the foundation (which is 19’ thick and will remain) and what the study will entail. Local fishing community stakeholders will be contacted for input on the study which will help determine the potential uses and design of any new buildings based on current and future needs of the

industry. The Division submitted a request to GOFERR to fund the design, engineering, permits, bid docs, and construction management so that the Division can act on that immediately following completion of the concept study and a decision is made on what type of building would be best. After that, there may be some federal funds available for actual construction costs through a Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). There is already a working group in place, made up of members from the local fishing community and current users of the building.

#### **Additional Director Report Items:**

A notice of Substantial Completion was received from the contractor on the Main Pier project. One of the final punch list items may not be able to be completed until spring. One bid was received for the Functional Replacement but was disqualified as it did not meet the minimum experience requirement. A notice letter was sent to the bidder to let them know, and a request for reconsideration was received by the Division. The Division and its engineers are reviewing the request. Regarding the cruise line, the Coast Guard Cutter Eagle will be coming this summer (last weekend in July), and that visit will not conflict with the scheduled cruises. Discussion on the proposed revenue for the cruise vessels as noted in the handout. As a reminder, this terminal offers no amenities, such as they do in Portland. Further discussion regarding the timing of the cruises coming in with regards to the tide schedule and the potential need of the river pilots to help navigate up the river.

#### 6. NEW BUSINESS-

Election of Council officers, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer took place as follows:

Donahue made a motion to re-elect Brad Cook as Chair, Snow seconded. No discussion, a vote was taken and all were in favor.

Snow made a motion to re-elect Mike Donahue as Vice-Chair, McQuillen seconded. No discussion, a vote was taken and all were in favor.

Snow made a motion to re-elect Jeff Gilbert as Treasurer, Anderson seconded. No discussion, a vote was taken and all were in favor. Discussion on requirements for attendance, the Port Advisory Council by-laws will be sent out to the members for review.

#### 7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Business Development/FTZ- Waiting on BOEM to finalize the wind lease areas in the Gulf of Maine. Further discussion on the cancellations of existing leases and the modular home company that had expressed an interest in coming in. No new news there.
- Dredging- In Hampton/Seabrook the ACOE wants to do a Feasibility study, the State share is \$518,000, there is a little over \$100,000 available from the Hampton float project. The Division submitted a request to GOFERR for the remainder to be funded by leftover ARPA funds. The Division also put in a request to GOFERR for ARPA funds for the Main Pier dredging that needs to be done, at one section the main pier is at a draft of 32' and it should be 35' to match the rest. A few years ago a capital request was done for that project, but it was not approved. Sometime in the next week or so, the Cashman

dredge will be working on the Simplex Reach section, it should take a couple days to a week to complete. The material will be dumped in a deep hole further up river.

- Fisheries- The lobster fishery is pretty much buttoned up, but there are a handful of boats still out fishing. Groundfish are around, and there are about 4 boats going after that fishery, in the past there were 70-80 boats doing ground fishing. Discussion on the availability of ice, Division confirmed that ice is available at the Portsmouth Fish Pier and will reach out to the person that is looking for ice to let them know. Also, is the outside hoist at PFP going to be operational? Yes, they were waiting for a part (gear box) but the construction on the pier repair project will be starting at that end of the dock so that a new hoist can be installed. Discussion on the docks that are taken out in Hampton for the winter, one of the groundfish fisherman is finding it difficult without having something to work off. Division confirmed that it's a skiff issue, not a dock issue. The hoists are operational, there are fenders against the wall and they can access the dock that way. The facility is fully functional. Last Wednesday a small group of fisherman met with Nikki Haley at the request of the Governor (who was also in attendance). The meeting went well and a lot of information was shared, there was no press present. After the meeting, the Governor visited the Portsmouth Fish Pier at the request of Councilor Janet Stevens (who was not in attendance). The Governor did indicate at one point there are ARPA funds available to help with the project. Anderson spoke on the fisherman's working group regarding the building replacement, they've met one time and they plan to express their interest in future use, looking 10 to 15 years out, not just as what the needs are today. For clarification, from concept study to construction completion, the total cost is estimated to be around \$4.6 million. The deed restrictions for the property were discussed again, indicating the facility needs to be used for commercial fishing or it reverts back to the City. Also, any plans are submitted, as a courtesy, to the City of Portsmouth for review and comment. The Division's pest control company has been out to the site to assess the rodent problem, it was confirmed that there are no nests inside the building and a plan will be put in place for rodent control. All in all the project is getting a lot of attention from Concord. The letter in the packet from Appledore indicates the building is approximately 6250 sq. ft. (50' x 125'). The Governor also recommended the fishing community submit a letter to legislators to help support the effort, which Anderson said they would do.
- Government- no report
- Moorings- All mooring permit renewal and waitlist renewal applications have been mailed out. They are due by March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- PDA- The Chair is attending the PDA Port Committee meetings, there was one yesterday. He invited other members of this Council to attend these meetings if the opportunity arises. The Port Committee is a sub-committee of the full PDA Board and meets 4 times a year. The next PDA Board meeting is tomorrow morning and they do not meet in February or July. The PDA Board meetings are live streamed. Anderson reminded everyone that the Port is self-funding, in other words, no funds are received from PDA to support the Port operations. Director commented that this is an FAA

regulation. Merging administratively with PDA has been a good thing for the Port because there are administrative assets that are readily available through PDA.

- Recreational Piers- Ward showed some photos of Rye & Hampton Harbors of the aftermath of the recent storm. Discussion about the Bauer rocks and the price they are being charged for the ROE that he has for storing the rocks on the property in Rye. The fee that he is being charged is the same fee that the Division charges for bulk cargo storage at all of the facilities. Further discussion on the damage to Harbor Rd. and the seawall project, this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest swell since 1978. Discussion turned to the boat that was up on the jetty in Rye a couple of weeks ago and the use of “swivels” on mooring hardware.

8. OLD BUSINESS-

No old business.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT-

No public comment.

10. PRESS QUESTIONS –

No Press present.

11. ADJOURNMENT

McQuillen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Snow seconded and the meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.