



*Division of Ports and Harbors Advisory Council
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**PORT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024 6:00 PM**

PRESENT: Brad Cook, Chair
Mike Donahue, Vice-Chair, via TEAMS
Erik Anderson
Jeff Gilbert, Treasurer, via TEAMS (6:12 pm)
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

Anderson made a motion to approve the January 10, 2024 minutes, McQuillen seconded. A change will be made to correct “Donovan” to “Donahue” with regards to the nomination of Chair. No further discussion, all members were in favor and the motion passed.

3. FINANCE REPORT

The report for FY ending December 31, 2023 was included in the meeting packet. Director noted that the Division’s third salt ship for the FY is at the berth and that mooring and pier use permit renewal season started on January 1st so next month’s report will show an increase in revenue.

4. PISCATAQUA RIVER VESSEL TRANSIT REPORT

The January 2024 report was included in the meeting packet. Discussion on the origin of salt ships and if the drought conditions in the Panama Canal are impacting schedules. The annual Vessel Traffic & Tonnage composite from 2003 to 2023 and a detail report for 2023 were included in the meeting packet. The “composite report summarizes the cargo type, vessel type (by size) and vessel tonnage profiles. The “detail” report breaks down the categories by month for the 2023 calendar year.

At 6:09 PM the meeting was suspended to allow a presentation by UNH, Updates on the Tidal Turbine Project, the meeting started back up at 6:40 PM, at the conclusion of the presentation.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Marconi reported on, and materials were provided for, the following items from the PDA Board Meeting, January 11, 2024, the two items below are reports only, there were no items for approval in January.

- Appledore Marine Engineering, LLC-Contract extension
- Heidi & Elisabeth Fisheries, Portsmouth Fish Pier, Right of Entry

Additional Director Report Items:

The storms in January were recorded at 6.8" above the storms of '78, it was a 13'6" high tide. There was some impacts at both harbors, some of the shacks were floated off their foundations, boats in Rye on trailers were knocked off, some impacts to the fuel system and the office in Rye was flooded. No impact at the Portsmouth Fish Pier. Damage assessment is still being done and coordinated with HSEM.

The Main Pier project has been completed and final closeout will be done in April/May. The Functional Replacement project will be going back out to bid, once the Army Corp permit is finalized.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Business Development/FTZ- Waiting on BOEM to finalize the wind lease areas in the Gulf of Maine. BOEM is still active in Mid-Atlantic area.
- Dredging- The maintenance dredging in Newington Dredge has been completed by ACOE. There was about 60,000 cy taken out and disposed of upriver. The discussions for removing the rock in the turning basin are ongoing.
- Fisheries- The groundfish have had good returns this year, mostly pollock. There was a hearing in Concord on HB1029, which was sponsored by Representative Hill. This bill is for lobster regulations and is strongly opposed by Fish & Game and the NH fishing industry. Industry is still following BOEM.
- Government- No report
- Moorings- All mooring permit renewal and waitlist renewal applications are due by March 1st. There are still quite a few renewals that are not in.
- PDA- No PDA Board meeting in February.

- Recreational Piers- Ward thanked Geno for his report, which covered the January storms and the impacts to Rye and Hampton Harbors.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on the replacement of the building at the Portsmouth Fish Pier. It was reported that the Governor found ARPA funds for that project, and for Rye Harbor improvements. Upon receiving that information, the Division was asked to submit a request to the NH Fiscal Committee and NH Governor & Executive Council to approve the funding, which the Division did, but then PDA asked the Division to withdraw the requests and to bring to the PDA Board for review & approval first. The item will be on the PDA Board March agenda. There is a working group of industry people who are trying to sort through ideas on how the building can be improved. There was a kick-off meeting at the Fish Pier today for the approved Concept Study with the Appledore Marine, their sub-contractor, and Port Staff. The working group contact information will be shared with Appledore. Further discussion regarding the condition and future of the warehouse/office building at Market St. Terminal. Discussion on the issue of rising sea levels and the impact it may have on future construction projects at Division terminals.

8. OLD BUSINESS-

No old business.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT-

Peter Welch noted that the annual Maritime Day event held at the Coast Guard Station may need to be relocated. Donahue added that the Propeller Club has been out there and is working on a letter to encourage the expediting the assessment of the Station and the rebuilding plan to hopefully get things done before the upcoming boating season.

10. PRESS QUESTIONS –

No Press present.

11. ADJOURNMENT

McQuillen made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.