



*Division of Ports and Harbors Advisory Council
555 Market St.
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Tel 603-436-8500
Fax 603-436-2780*

**PORT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024 6:00 PM**

PRESENT: Brad Cook, Chair
Mike Donahue, Vice-Chair, via TEAMS
Erik Anderson
Jeff Gilbert, Treasurer (arrived at 6:15)
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 February 14, 2024 minutes, Ward seconded. No discussion, a vote was taken, all members (Gilbert not present) were in favor and the motion passed.

3. FINANCE REPORT

The report for FY ending January 31, 2024 was included in the meeting packet. There were a couple of salt ships in the last couple of months, a heavy lift ship is coming in next week, and a cable ship will be arriving towards the end of the month. There should be another salt ship in early April. As a reminder, not shown in this report is the mooring revenue for February or March.

4. PISCATAQUA RIVER VESSEL TRANSIT REPORT

The February 2024 report was included in the meeting packet. There was a propane ship this past month. Discussion on value of cargo that comes up the river. The Department of Safety does track the cargo value as they look at the tax on the oil. Discussion on the value of the cable that transits on this river to/from SubCom, any numbers reported could be proprietary based on the confidentiality of certain government contracts. Back in 2012 an economic impact study was completed in relation to the replacement of the Sarah Long Bridge, the report is

available on the Port website. The study was designed to be used as a tool for planning of the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge. The businesses were able to provide their individual information to the project managers. The study was significant to design a new bridge rather than repairing the existing bridge. Speaking of river front businesses, the Propellor Clubs next meeting is March 28th at the Atlantic Grill. The CEO of SubCom, David Coughlin is the speaker. Discussion on the last page of the Finance report regarding the Hampton Dock Replacement, the Division hopes to use the remaining funds to help out with the Hampton/Seabrook 107 Feasibility Study for the ongoing shoaling in that harbor, which has a cost of over \$500,000. Further discussion on the history of the shoaling and the harbor. The fuel enclosure shed for Rye Harbor recreation side docks is in the process of being built. Discussion on fuel systems in case of a spill.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Hampton floats will be going in on March 19th. The gangway in Rye was damaged beyond repair during the last storm and the Division is requesting approval to purchase a new gangway at tomorrow's board meeting, there is a bit of a lead time for orders so in the meantime there is a gangway available for the Division to use temporarily. Also, the Division is presenting a report on the storm damages, and preliminary estimated cost of repairs to the PDA Board. Going forward, the Division's Capital Improvement Plan will be included in the PDA Board package. There is an internal assessment (measurements, current condition, damage, etc.) scheduled for the Portsmouth Commercial Fish Pier building tomorrow in conjunction with the Concept Study for a replacement building. At the Market St. Terminal a heavy lift ship is coming next week, the pictures of the "synchronizing condenser", which weighs 326 tons, were passed around. There are several smaller components being offloaded as well. Some of the smaller units are moving offsite right away and some, along with the condenser, will be kept at the Port for a couple of months then moved to Amherst for an Eversource project. This is a huge undertaking and will require a 24 axle truck to move the condenser around the Port and then on to Amherst.

6. NEW BUSINESS-

Going forward the PDA monthly board meeting dates will be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month (with the exception of April and October, which will remain the 3rd Thursday) that change will put the PAC and PDA meetings on back-to-back days during the following months, May, June, Sept, Nov, Dec. Discussion on considering changing the PAC meeting dates to a different night on the months in which that occurs to allow for time between the Council meetings and the PDA meetings in case there are items that need to be brought forth to the Board. The Council will revisit in April.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Business Development/FTZ- No report.
- Dredging- Nothing new outside of the discussion regarding Hampton/Seabrook Harbor.

- Fisheries- HB 1029, regarding licensing for taking of lobsters is back on the table after being previously “Inexpedient to Legislate” at the House. Even so, the bill was recalled by the Sponsor of the bill and will be going back to the House tomorrow. If it goes to the Senate the fisheries group will get involved. There was a meeting held with regards to looking at programs for mitigation for damage done during construction of Off Shore Wind components. There will be a regional Administrator assigned by BOEM to oversee any claims for the Atlantic lease areas. The lease areas in the Gulf of Maine are expected to be released within the next week. Discussion on the hole in the roof at PFP, it's on the Division's work list of projects to be done.
- Government- DES is hosting a community forum tonight in Hampton to discuss the impacts and the potential planning and changes that communities can take regarding coastal flooding. Portsmouth has a representative at the meeting.
- Moorings- No report
- PDA- The next PDA Board meeting is March 14th (tomorrow) and the Port Committee meeting is Tuesday, April 2nd.
- Recreational Piers- Ward said the issues in Rye are access to the ramp. He showed some photos of the impacts of the storm in Rye this past weekend, showed the buildings had moved and Harbor Rd. washed out. Discussion on the rocks stored at Rye Harbor, he has asked for an extension of the ROE, the Division will be going to PDA Board tomorrow for approval. The concern is that 3 more months will bring the ROE into the harbor season, the Division will be working with Bauer to minimize any impacts to the public operations at the Harbor. Ward showed photos of the rocks that Bauer is using for his construction project.

8. OLD BUSINESS-

No old business.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT-

No public comment.

10. PRESS QUESTIONS –

No Press present.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.