



*Division of Ports and Harbors Advisory Council
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PORT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 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 March 13, 2024 minutes, Ward seconded. No discussion, a vote was taken, all members were in favor and the motion passed.

3. FINANCE REPORT

The report for FY ending February 29, 2024 was included in the meeting packet. Discussion included that net revenue is \$50,000 ahead of the budget, income is down, but expenses are also down. There was a heavy lift ship here last month, they offloaded an Eversource “Synchronizing Condenser” which handles green power entering the grid because green power fluctuates and has to be stabilized before entering the grid for transmission, it was 339 tons. Discussion on logistics, storage, and transporting components to Amherst. SubCom recently had a ship in to switch out a tow wire for one of the plows that operates on the ocean floor. There should be a salt ship in the next couple of weeks. Discussion on the various items in Capital Project request which was included in the packet. The PDA asked the Port to put a Capital Improvement Plan in the Board package so that they are aware of the projects. The items listed are projects that are either in process or projected to be completed later down the road. The projected items are a moving target, because priorities may shift if anything unexpected pops up.

4. PISCATAQUA RIVER VESSEL TRANSIT REPORT

Donahue commented, looking at the in and out times on the SubCom cable ships you’ll notice they are turning them quickly at their dock.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Marconi reported on the following from the March 14, 2024 PDA Board meeting: (copies included in the meeting packet)

1. Reports:

- a) Commercial mooring transfers
- b) DPH DRAFT Capital Improvement Plan
- c) Replacement of Truck Scale

2. Approvals:

- a) Hampton Harbor, Jetty Special Use Permit, Extension
- b) Hampton Harbor, Luciano, ROE extension
- c) ARPA accept and expend funds for PFP & Rye Harbor
- d) Rye Harbor, Bauer Construction, ROE extension
- e) Rye Harbor, Gangway Replacement

6. NEW BUSINESS-

McQuillen made a motion to amend the PAC By-Laws, Article 5, Section 1 to allow meetings to be scheduled at the “call of the chair” rather than having it confined to the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Donahue seconded the motion. Discussion included that this would be the best procedure as it will allow the Council to be flexible and adjust the meeting dates so that they will not conflict with the PDA Board meeting schedule. A vote was taken and all were in favor.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Business Development/FTZ- Donahue handed out maps for the off shore wind lease areas in the Gulf of Maine. It's 80% smaller than the original area, and about 43% smaller than the iteration from last fall. BOEM is currently in the middle of a 30-day comment period for an impact/environmental analysis of the area. Maine has determined that the port for assembly is going to be a new build on Searsport Island. There will be operation and maintenance ports as well, to be determined down the road. The leasing part of the project is next and then more specialized studies to occur. Anderson reported that the fishing industry has always made public comment whenever there was a comment period available, and based on the reduction in areas, feels that they made a difference with the determination of the final lease areas. Anderson also reported that he just learned of something new, which is, depending on the distance from the generating plant to the shore, they might have to install “cooling stations”, which use 4 to 7 million gallons a day, they use the water to cool the power that's coming from the generator and they also add chlorination. In other words, the water goes in ambient and comes out warmer. BOEM will not comment on anything to do with transmission lines, as that is part of the construction and out of their jurisdiction. The OSW is still in very early stages and details cannot be known until the areas are leased.
- Dredging- Marconi reported to the Council that as part of the Capital Improvement plan the Port is hoping to do a dredge of the main pier area to bring it down to the same level as the rest of the pier, the estimated amount of material to dredge is 1100 cubic yards. If they get funding, the Port is hoping to put this out to bid around the same time as the

functional replacement project because the major portion of the cost for the dredge is mobilization and demobilization. Transmission lines could be the main concern, getting the power to shore, and then receiving the power on shore side. Donahue handed out an article that showed an example of the cruise ships that will be visiting the Port. The Navy announced that US ship builders are going to be working with the Koreans.

- Fisheries- Anderson reported that it's a slow time of year, but they are starting to gear up. Trap clean up is this Saturday, April 13th. Dumpsters will be brought to Rye Harbor. The material getting picked up is getting less and less each year. Marconi added that there are many new regulations being considered at a National Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Advisory Committee meeting being held in Florida April 9-April 11. He handed out an agenda, which included all of the "Task Statements". New regulations could have ill effects on the fisheries and include on board monitors, making all commercial vessels "inspected" vessels, licensed merchant mariners need to be on board, and an increase in lobster gauge size. Marconi pointed out there are 2 committee members from New England, one from CT and one from ME. He printed out the bios for each as taken from the minutes of one of the meetings. This is a Coast Guard study. Discussion on the challenge to the Chevron decision, where that was the decision that Congress gave up oversight and gave it to the Departments, like NOAA, NMFS, to make regulations. In the shipping industry there are also implications to that. Any decisions will would impact the local fishing industry.
- Government- No report.
- Moorings- In the packet is the 2015-2024 Mooring Analysis and the 2024 Waitlist Analysis. Discussion included that there seems to be no trend throughout the years. There is a percentage listed at the bottom of the analysis, that figure is the % of mooring permit applications that are sent out vs. what percentage expired, in 2024 that number is 2.3%. In short, not that many people fall between the cracks. Discussion on the deadline, and that April 1st letters are sent out asking expired permit holders to remove their mooring gear. The Division has received one reconsideration request so far. In mid-November the Commercial mooring permits were mailed out, the notices have the due date marked in several places. The law is specific that the permittee is responsible for renewing the permit whether they receive it in the mail or not. Further discussion on what happens when a commercial mooring permit holder lapses, it will be offered to the next person on the waitlist that has applied for a commercial mooring. A commercial mooring permit can be transferred from one commercial entity to another commercial entity. To have that happen, the other entity needs to purchase the mooring gear as well. Clarification regarding waitlists for commercial use, the waitlist applications are marked "commercial" or "personal" by the applicant and are tracked internally. The waitlist analysis indicates the numbers are trending down. Further discussion on the number of people that go on a waitlist that already have a mooring, 720 requests, and of those, 260 have a mooring already so this generally means folks are looking to get a better spot.
- PDA- Cook reported that he attended the April 2nd Port Committee meeting and wanted to give a shout out to Myles for presenting explaining the financial aspect of people doing business at the Port and the fees that are charged to the ships. Very informative.

- Recreational Piers- Ward reported that everyone is gearing up. Marconi reported that the floats are in and the Port is getting prices to pave the ramp in Rye, and as part of the Capital Improvement Plan, they'd like to widen the ramp and put a floating dock down the middle. Hopefully the gangway will be going in soon.

8. OLD BUSINESS-

The next Port Advisory Council will be on May 1st.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT-

No public comment.

10. PRESS QUESTIONS –

No Press present.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, McQuillen seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.