



**Fairhaven Marine Resources Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2023**

Present: Chair Michael McNamara, Mr. Dave Hebert, Ms. Michelle Potter, Mr. Robert Pink and Harbormaster Timothy Cox.

Absent: Vice-Chair Andrew Jones, Robert Hobson, Keith Silvia

The meeting was videotaped by Cable Access and Zoom meeting application.

Mr. McNamara opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Minutes:

Motion: Michelle Potter motioned to approve minutes. Mr. Pink seconded. Vote (4-0-3)

Receive information neighboring ramp fee's:

Mr. McNamara reviewed current parking fees of the surrounding towns and it was determined that Fairhaven falls in line with these rates. Data for Hoppy's permit fees in comparison to last year will be reviewed and we will also find out if other towns charge a user fee for commercial vessels using ramps without parking. Discussion ensued regarding revenue and the cost associated with the maintenance of the dock. The board will revisit whether or not parking fees should only be during the summer months and if it should be structured where non-residents pay a higher rate.

Union Wharf Updates:

Tim gave an update about the vessels departing Union Wharf to make room for construction. The fence and trailer will be delivered in the next week or two and materials have been ordered.

Dredging Updates:

We are currently waiting on the time frame for dredging to be started. They are behind schedule but are hoping to start the project in December or January. We do not have the final plans for West Island yet and Tim will reach out to FOTH for an update.

Harbormaster updates:

We are applying for a grant to expand Pease Park Parking lot. Seaview Ramp needs updating also but will require much more funding. All departments have been asked to review fees and increase if justified. We will review all of Marine Resources fees at the end of the year and decide on any changes in January or February.

Shellfish updates:

The shellfish constable signs off on the quahogs being trailered and charges an additional one dollar per bushel which added \$800.00 to the Relay this year. The barge worked out very well this year for transporting the quahogs. Discussion ensued about the possibility of an upweller in the future and the population of oysters in the area.

Any Other Business:

none

Next meeting will be November 2, 2023 at 6:30 pm. If any unforeseen circumstance comes up prior, an earlier meeting will be scheduled.

Motion: Mr. Pink motioned to adjourn. Mr. Hebert seconded. Vote (4-0-3)

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Sharon Mills

Recording Secretary