



**Fairhaven Marine Resources Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2024**

Present: Chair Michael McNamara, Vice-Chair Andrew Jones, Select Board member Keith Silvia, David Hebert, Robert Pink, Michelle Potter, Robert Hobson, and Harbormaster Timothy Cox.

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

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Mr. Hobson motioned to approve minutes. Mr. Pink seconded. Vote (6-0-1)

Aquaculture permit renewals:

Mr. McNamara read the renewal letter submitted by John Mills to renew his aquaculture license for five years. Mr. Cox spoke that he is in favor of this renewal and has no issues with Mr. Mills. Mr. Hobson also spoke in favor.

Motion to renew aquaculture license for five years. Mr. Jones motioned, Mr. Pink Seconded Vote (6-0-01)

Mr. McNamara read the renewal letter submitted by Blue Stream to renew the aquaculture license for five years. Mr. Cox has no issues with them and feels they do a nice job. Mr. Hobson questioned the acreage of the farm but the coordinates have not changed.

Motion to approve aquaculture license for five years. Mr. Pink motioned, Ms. Potter seconded. Vote (6-0-1)

Flouting Upweller Request – Blue Stream Shellfish:

Mr. Dale Leavitt of Blue Stream spoke about his proposal to put a float in the SE corner of Jack's Cove. He has determined this would be an appropriate spot and has proactively spoke with neighbors who have given verbal consent. This will be advertised, publicly posted and then brought before the Select Board for approval. The upweller will be removed from the water by December 31, 2024. Discussion ensued regarding the timeframe of recommendation, the public hearing process and the location in Jack's Cove.

Motion to approve Upweller request. Mr. Pink Motioned, Mr. Jones seconded. Vote (5-1-1)

Union Wharf Fees:

Daily Dockage fees are \$25.00 per day and \$40.00 per day was recommended by the town. Discussion ensued regarding the increase and history.

Motion to implement fee to \$35.00 per day as previously approved five years ago. Mr. Jones Motioned, Mr. Pink Seconded. Vote (6-0-1)

Small boat fees are \$2095.00 per year and \$2305.05 was recommended by the town. A ten percent increase.

Motion to raise fee to \$2300.00 per year. Mr. Jones motioned, Mr. Pink seconded, Vote (6-0-1)

Waterway user fee:

Current fees are \$1.00 per foot for residents and \$4.00 per foot for non-residents. Recommended increase from the town is \$4.00 per foot for residents and \$10.00 per foot for nonresidents. Mr. McNamara explained what this fee was initially implemented for and that the boaters don't get anything back for it. Discussion ensued regarding the large proposed increase. Mr. McNamara is suggesting twenty percent increase. Mr. Hebert suggested a fifty percent increase.

Motion by Ms. Potter to leave it the way it is. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote (2-4-1)

Motion to increase by thirty percent by Mr. Hebert. Mr. Jones seconded. That is \$1.30 for residents and \$5.20 for non-residents. Vote (4-2-1)

Mooring Fees:

Mr. McNamara explained the process of owning a mooring. The fee has only been in place for two years and he feels there should not an increase. The town is recommending \$50.00 for residential and \$150.00 for commercial. Discussion ensued regarding to increase this fee or not.

Motion to retain the current fee structure given it was newly implemented. Mr. Hebert seconded. Vote (6-0-01)

Dredging updates:

Fourteen residents/abutters of Goulart Memorial Drive were notified of the proposed dredging. The majority of those notified were not interested in signed the waiver needed. Mr. Cox advised the committee of the proposed locations that could be re-nourished with dredged materials. Mr. McNamara gave some history of how the area has changed over the last few years.

Dredging in the harbor has been started and is on schedule. Pease Park had to be closed while dredging at that location and will reopen soon.

Harbormaster updates:

Union Wharf is coming along nicely. Pilings have all been installed and wales in place. There was an issue with the gangway at Hoppy's Landing but it has been straightened out with minor repairs to be done when the weather gets better.

Shellfish updates:

Shell fishing across most of Buzzards Bay has been shut down for roughly eighteen days due to 48 million gallons of raw sewerage that was discharged by New Bedford. Discussion ensued regarding the ongoing discharge issues and closures.

Any other business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the posting of this meeting:
none

Next meeting will be March 7, 2024 at 6:30 pm. If any unforeseen circumstance comes up prior, an earlier meeting will be scheduled.

Motion: Mr. Hobson motioned to adjourn. Mr. Hebert seconded. Vote (6-0-1)

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Sharon Mills
Recording Secretary