



**Fairhaven Marine Resources Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 4, 2024**

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

**Absent:** Robert Pink

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. Hebert seconded. Vote (5-1-1)

**Aquaculture permit renewals:**

Mr. Cox advised the committee that two licenses are due for renewal, Blue Stream and John Mills. They both will be submitting letters to the committee to renew for five years. Mr. Dale Leavitt from Blue Stream spoke to the committee and gave an update about the FLUPSY and the location they are investigating for the upcoming season. Mr. Leavitt is also seeking approval for electrical to be trenched through Hoppy's Landing rather than go across the causeway road. Discussion ensued regarding proposed location for FLUBSY in Jack's Cove. A letter for renewal will be presented at next meeting and will be voted on.

**Motion:** For Hoppy's Landing to be modified and retrenched for the purpose of upping the amperage of the electrical feed to not only help the aquaculture but also upgrade Hoppy's at the cost of the Aquaculture farm.

Mr. Hebert motioned. Mr. Jones seconded. Vote (5-1-1)

**Parking fee recommendations for Hoppy's & Pease Park:**

Mr. McNamara presented the surrounding towns current fee's verses the fee's in Fairhaven. Mr. Cox advised that he had met with Ms. Ellison and has recommendations that they together came up with. Mr. McNamara read these increases to the committee and discussion ensued. Each member gave their recommendation individually.

**Motion:** To increase parking fees to \$8.00 per day and \$60.00 per season. Mr. Hebert motioned, Mr. Jones seconded. Vote (5-1-1)

**Shellfish permit fee recommendations:**

Mr. McNamara presented information regarding surrounding town's fee's verses Fairhaven's along with Ms. Ellison's recommendations. Discussion ensued regarding the age of a senior, free of charge permit, and the cost of planting this year which has increased substantially. The board reviewed how many permits were sold in 2023 in each category. Discussion ensued regarding the cost verses the revenue of

Shell fishing and the members gave their recommendations for each increase. Fees have not been increased since 2007.

**Motion:** To increase fee's by thirty percent. This will bring resident to \$39.00 and non-resident to \$175.00.

**Mr. Hebert Motioned. Mr. Hobson seconded. Vote (5-1-1)**

The committee discussed the age to be eligible for a senior permit that is free of charge. Veterans were also discussed and decided to be left as is.

**Motion:** To increase age of a senior permit to 65 years of age. Grandfathering all others that have already obtained a permit.

**Mr. Hobson motioned. Ms. Potter seconded. Vote (5-1-1)**

#### **Union Wharf updates:**

Construction started slightly behind schedule but they are making good progress. Sheet piles have been installed, fill is scheduled to be brought in and caps will be finished off with concrete. We have been meeting every two weeks for updates.

#### **Dredging updates:**

Dredging in the Harbor is now starting. Pease Park is first on the list and will be closed for a short time. Inspections are happening now at other locations on the schedule to be dredged. 4-5 boats will be relocating from the Shipyard South back to Union Wharf while dredging is taking place at the Shipyard. We are still working with FOTH engineering on the dredging on West Island and Mr. Cox described the proposed locations to put dredged materials.

#### **Harbormaster updates:**

Mr. Cox updated the committee on the boat ramps. They took a beating during the last storm with considerable amounts of sand and seaweed covering them which BPW is helping to clean. The wall at Seaview boat ramp sustained damaged with the flag pole bending and wall shifting. He is working on fixing these issues. The state will not be rebuilding the ramp yet but we are requesting the docks get repaired or replaced. Mr. Cox would like the other fees listed on the next meeting. The Harbormaster is working on getting some vessels at the landfill removed via auction.

#### **Shellfish updates:**

The Nature Conservatory has obtained a grant to purchase and plant thousands of oysters on the reef. These will be in cages and checked in one year to track their progress.

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

Next meeting will be February 1, 2023 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 (5-1-1)

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectively submitted,  
Sharon Mills  
Recording Secretary