

Edgartown Marine Advisory Committee
Town Hall
Minutes

Date: June 25, 2014

Members Present: Gary Look, Bruce McIntosh, Martin 'Skip' Tomassian

Other people present: Harbormaster Charles Blair,
Attorney Sean Murphy, Doug Hoehn,
Agent Richard Barbini, Bill Roman

Next Meeting Date: September 10, 2014

Meeting Opened: 3:06PM

The meeting was called to order.

1) Houlahan, Discuss Site Visit re: New Piers Request

(See 6/11/14 Minutes p.1-2 #1.)

- Martin Tomassian stated that although the additional piers fit the Edgartown Marine Advisory criteria, and met the property separation parameters, in his opinion this was the stupidest project he had ever seen because there was not enough water to justify the pier. Consequently it was probable that all new owners would apply for L's, T's or extensions. Secondly, although not the purview of the Marine Advisory Board, the area behind the piers was a pristine tidal pond which he did not want to see messed up by walkways and other human uses.
- Harbormaster Charlie Blair had understood that the original application promised the two existing piers only. Doug Hoehn and Attorney Sean Murphy explained that the initial restriction by the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) had been lifted (see 6/11/14 Minutes). Mr. Blair also noted that this was an adjusted faired pier line as accepted, but not verified.
- Bruce McIntosh agreed with Mr. Tomassian that the water was too shallow for the docks to be useful--at low tide one pier would not even be suitable for a kayak. Doug Hoehn and Sean Murphy said the depth ranged from 2-2.5 ft and 3.5 -4 ft. when the buoys were dropped in before low tide. The Board site visit took place one hour after low tide.
- It was suggested that Mr. Houlahan apply instead for possible expansion or extension of the existing piers.
- Gary Look agreed that the piers met the criteria and might have to be approved.
- It was suggested that the motion include strong language recommending against any return to the Board for extensions or expansions.
- Mr. Houlahan was intending to build the piers (not just obtain the permits).

Edgartown Marine Advisory Committee
June 25, 2014

2

• *MARTIN TOMASSIAN MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE THREE ADDITIONAL HOULAHAN PIERS AND:*

- *TO ASK THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE FAIRED PIER LINE AND NEVER, EVER GRANT EXTENSIONS BEYOND THAT LINE; AND*

- *THAT THE MARINE ADVISORY BOARD WAS VERY CONCERNED WITH THE WET LANDS BEHIND THE PIER AND WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE A PRISTINE POND;*

- *GARY LOOK SECONDED; MOTION FAILED: 1 AYE-GARY LOOK, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

• Mssrs Hoehn and Murphy asked if the applications should be submitted individually, Martin Tomassian stated his vote would be the same for all three piers. Bruce McIntosh had no problem with the applications as a whole and had voted no as it was proposed.

• Mr. Murphy gave Chair Gary Look the address for the letter to the Dept. of Environmental Protection regarding the Seafood Shanty (see 6/11/14 Minutes p.2 #2).

2) Preliminary Discussion, Edgartown Yacht Club – Agent Barbini

• Martin Tomassian and Charlie Blair informed the meeting that they were Club members and would recuse themselves from any vote.

• The foundations of the Edgartown Yacht Club had eroded and the renovation would unfortunately exceed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood compliance threshold, requiring the building be raised 10 ft. above sea level— which would violate local zoning regulations, Town aesthetic and resident wishes. The Board members discussed various possible ways around this.

- However as an interim measure the Yacht Club asked to square their dock by adding 272 sq. ft. and extending it 10 ft. on one side. The resulting pier would still be 18 ft. from the faired pier line on one side and 13 ft. from it on the other. In general this impacted the same navigational area as the denied Mad Max/Colacray pier extension request (see 2/12/14 Minutes). Consequently Marine Advisory Board legal and political consistency became a primary issue with the request. The Board discussed:

- the location and possible configurations of the proposed Yacht Club pier expansion,

- previous modifications to the Colacray extension request,

- allowing very minor pier renovation so long as there were no navigational issues.

• The Advisory Board considered revisiting the Colacray application at their September 10, 2014 meeting.

3) Approve Minutes

• *GARY LOOK MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 11, 2014 MINUTES AS CORRECTED: BRUCE MCINTOSH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Edgartown Marine Advisory Committee
June 25, 2014

3

4) Old Business - None

5) New Business

- The Reading Room/Collins Beach No Parking signs were removed as not properly permitted (see 3/12/14 Minutes p. 1 #1). Continuing complaints from a new abutting owner triggered the formation of a Committee (Mark Defeo, Steve Ewing, Bruce Farland, Eddie Gentle Jr., Bruce McIntosh and John Moffat) to observe activity and report to the Town. As the Marine Board representative Bruce McIntosh asked for direction on what to observe. This beach and landing were substantially used by those earning a living in the harbor or on Edgartown waters.
- The Board asked the Committee to visit the site daily and take notes and/or pictures of activities.
- Town Counsel would be consulted on the beach and landing boundaries; i.e. where did abutter property end.

Meeting Adjourned:

- *MARTIN TOMASSIAN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 4:05PM; BRUCE MCINTOSH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

To Do List:

Gary – request consultation with Town Counsel (after July 1st) on Collins Beach / abutter boundaries

Accompanying Documents:

- Agenda 6/25/14