



TOWN OF EDGARTOWN  
OFFICE OF SELECTMEN

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**Selectmen's Meeting**  
**March 3, 2008**  
**4:15 P.M.**

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in a temporary meeting room on the second floor. Members present were Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman, Selectman Arthur Smadbeck and Selectman Michael J. Donaroma. Also present was Town Administrator Pamela M. Dolby.

The Board had gone into Executive Session at 4:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. They returned into public session at 4:15 p.m. The first item on the agenda was a merit evaluation for Harbormaster Charles Blair.

Selectman Smadbeck said that Harbormaster Blair seems to always take care of business and that when there are any complaints, they are all taken care of by the time the Board gets them. Selectman Donaroma added that the Harbormaster has found time to think about ideas for the future to streamline processes and make the harbor inviting. Harbormaster Blair said he has had the same crew for 13 years and this made it easier.

Selectman Smadbeck moved to approve the merit evaluation for Harbormaster Blair. This was seconded and so voted, unanimously.

Joseph Cressy, Chairman, was present representing the Marine Advisory Committee. He said other members of the committee were aware of the Selectmen's January 28, 2008 letter asking the committee in to discuss Board concerns, chiefly about the time of their meetings. Selectman Smadbeck said that there are a lot of good people who would like to serve on the committee but the time of meetings is a problem because they are working. Mr. Cressy said they used to meet at 3:30 p.m., then tried 3:00 and 3:20. He said they never had any problems with anyone attending. He said that professional people like engineers like it, and Jane Varkonda, Conservation Agent, likes it because the meetings occur during her normal working hours. Selectman Smadbeck reiterated that people on the committee tell Board members they have a problem with the time. He felt Mr. Cressy was unwilling to give on the timing of the meetings. Mr. Cressy said he had spoken to Scott Morgan and suggested they could meet half an hour later.

Selectman Smadbeck pursued the problem of working people, who would find 5:00 p.m. more convenient. He reminded Mr. Cressy that the Marine Advisory Committee is a Selectmen's committee and decried that interested persons are being kept out of it. Selectman Donaroma said he has talked to people who are interested in serving on the committee if the time were 5:00 p.m. If this proved inconvenient to Harbormaster Blair, who attends the meetings, Selectman Donaroma felt that the Harbormaster didn't have to be there every time. He added that he would like to expand the talent on the committee.

Harbormaster Blair said we'll try anything to make it available to people. He noted that the Conservation Commission meets at 7:00 p.m. the same day which is one reason why 3:00 p.m. works for the Marine Advisory Committee.

Mr. Cressy then said that Scott Morgan's situation changed and he couldn't attend. Mr. Cressy said I

told him we'd like him to stay and we'd see what could be done. He said Mr. Morgan had thought he would like to be Harbormaster one day, when Mr. Blair retires, and thought the Marine Advisory Committee would be a good training ground, but now that he has seen what a hard job the Harbormaster has, he doesn't want it, and has resigned from the Marine Advisory Committee.

Selectman Donaroma pressed that the time has come to change the time of the meetings. Mr. Cressy suggested 4:00 p.m. Town Administrator Dolby said people work until 5:00. Mr. Cressy said the committee meets at The Anchors, which is very convenient to the member, who can either walk there or come in from the water. He said they would like to stay at The Anchors. In case of a large public hearing, held in a larger place, they would adjust the hour for that.

Selectman Smadbeck said Mr. Cressy should give the Board more latitude on who should be on the committee. He said he would talk to people who have indicated an interest.

Mr. Cressy again held out for 4:00 p.m. He added that the committee has done most of its regular business now. They are working on revising the harbor plan and mooring regulations. He said they are considering a bi-weekly schedule and noted that they don't meet in the summer at all, or only once or twice.

Chairman Serpa said 4:00 p.m. would be all right if it proved convenient to some people with an interest in the harbor. Town Administrator Dolby said it is still a problem for working people. Chairman Serpa thought 4:00 p.m. would be all right for now.

Selectman Smadbeck commented that it was news to him that Scott Morgan had resigned and said that if it was because of the time of meeting, he would like to know. Chairman Serpa said the Board would have the Marine Advisory Committee back to discuss the matter again.

Harbormaster Blair then spoke of a floating dock recommended by himself and Bailey Norton and Steven Ewing. Selectman Smadbeck said that they should explore finding private money, or some kind of private-public financial arrangement. He feels the harbor should be a money maker for the Town. Selectman Donaroma said the Board is reluctant to come up with funds for the project, and also recommended they seek some other way to get funds, outside or private. Chairman Serpa spoke of having joint public hearings regarding people who live in the town and transients. Town Administrator Dolby suggested waiting until June, when the summer people are back. Selectman Smadbeck said it is a complicated issue but noted that private-public funding is working with the Chappy Ferry and the same thing could work with the marina, but presently we're too premature for public hearings.

Tom Turner was present regarding a Cape Wind hearing to collect public opinion scheduled for March 12. Selectman Smadbeck said that the Board's opinion of the Cape Wind proposal has not changed, only strengthened. He said the Board members are looking at tidal energy and renewable energy and the town is working with a number of companies on these.

Mr. Turner referred to his environmental impact statement. He said when they have hearings they will give priority to any Selectmen or Senators who attend, so they can be heard first and not have to hang around during the 5-hour hearing. Chairman Serpa said that Selectman Smadbeck is the most active and up to date Board member, in conjunction with Kitt Johnson, Board representative to the Cape Light Compact, and suggested that Selectman Smadbeck get together with Mr. Turner before Monday and write something up. Selectman Smadbeck said that wind energy offers vital projects for the future, but the Board strongly opposes the Cape Wind Project. He added that the issue is the proper siting of renewable energy and spoke of the technology in Europe, where wind energy does not compete with recreation or marine fisheries.

The Board voted to approve payment of a bill from the Steamship Authority regarding a “no show”, namely, Sgt. Antone J. Bettencourt of the Police Department, who fell ill the night before he was to use his voucher the next morning.

Town Administrator Dolby noted that seasonal liquor license renewal forms are going out this week and commented on the current charges: all alcoholic, \$2000, which she suggested might be raised to \$2500; beer and wine, now \$1600, increase to \$1800; one-day licenses increase from \$100 to \$150. Chairman Serpa observed that the fees have not been raised for 5 years. The Board then voted for the increases.

Town Administrator Dolby then spoke of the various restaurants requests to close each year (in staggered fashion so some would always be open) and said most request 4 weeks, but some request 5-7 weeks. She noted we have no set policy and have dealt with them on a case by case basis. Selectman Smadbeck said the Board had previously allowed 5 weeks, then added he was not sure we could have a set policy. Town Administrator Dolby thought anything over a month should have explanation, noting that major renovations take more time. Chairman Serpa said we should limit closures to 4 weeks and if a restaurant wants longer, invite them in to discuss the reason. She also referred to staggered closings. Selectman Smadbeck moved that the Board would permit closings of up to 4 weeks, that if extenuating circumstances required the applicant to ask for more than 4 weeks, the applicant could come before the Board and make its case. The Board then voted unanimously for the motion.

The Chairman then announced that they would go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations. The Board members voted by voice vote, each one signifying Aye. The Chairman said they would not reconvene in regular session.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Hope Waingrow, secretary

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Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman

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Arthur Smadbeck

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Michael J. Donaroma

BOARD OF SELECTMEN