

**Edgartown Marine Advisory Committee
By Zoom Conference due to the Corona Virus Crisis**

Minutes

Date: May 13, 2020

Members Present: Scott Morgan, Bruce McIntosh,
Martin “Skip” Tomassian, Alternate Ed Handy,

Other people present: Charlie Blair – Harbormaster,
James Hagerty – Town Administrator,
Sam Hart, Chris Kennedy – TTOR,
Doug Finn,
Marni Lipke – Recorder,

Next Meeting Date: TBD - May 27, 2020, or June 3, 2020

Meeting Opened: 4:05PM

1) Call to Order

2) Harborside Inn Condominium Waterfront Access Court Case—Nothing to Report

4) Alewife Charters Harbor Business Applications – Scott Morgan,

**Scott Morgan recused himself from this agenda item.*

Scott Morgan was submitting an application for high-end, catered Harbor cruises. He had purchased a 50 ft. yacht, and was coordinating with caterers on: dinner, cocktail and lunch cruises. Clients would be picked up and delivered from Memorial Wharf—coordinating timing with Magic Carpet, another commercial user of the dock. Passengers would be limited to parties of 6 (the yacht was adequate for social distancing), with planning for a maximum of 2 cruises per day. He was already receiving inquiries from realtors. Harbormaster Charlie Blair supported the venture.

- As Scott Morgan was a member of the Marine Advisory Committee, Bruce McIntosh noted that regular procedure should be followed and the application should be submitted before a vote. The Committee members supported the concept.

- Scott Morgan apologized but stressed the short time-line for starting this season.

• **BRUCE MCINTOSH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE MARTIN SKIP TOMASSIAN TO SIGN A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SCOTT MORGAN’S ALEWIFE CHARTERS HARBOR BUSINESS APPLICATION, PENDING APPLICATION SUBMISSION WITH A SUPPORTING LETTER FROM THE HARBORMASTER; ED HANDY SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MARTIN SKIP TOMASSIAN—AYE, BRUCE MCINTOSH—AYE,, ED HANDY—AYE.**

3) Cape Pogue Preservation Discussion—Harbormaster Charlie Blair, Shellfish Constable

Paul Bagnall, Conservation Agent Jane Varkonda, The Trustees of Reservation (TTOR)

(See below: Actions & Minutes: 11/13/19 p.2 #4 & 12/4/29 p.2 #5. 1/15/20 p.2 #5, 2/12/20 p. 1-3 #5, 3/11/19 p. 1-2 #5.)

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- Although enforcement was difficult, previously agreed-upon measures were:
 - no anchoring in the eelgrass,
 - membership in The Trustees of Reservation (TTOR) required to beach a boat,
 - boat beaching/anchoring restricted to the tip of the Gut,
 - signage for headway speed.

The Committee considered the new situation.

- In view of the Covid-19/Corona Virus financial restrictions and slow down the Board of Selectmen did not want to introduce any new restrictions on this season's visitors and consequently asked that measures be postponed for a year. The Town was still waiting on Governor Baker's guidelines on opening beaches.

- People had been quarantining at home since March and were anticipating some release on beaches. Town Administrator James Hagerty feared strict guidance on distancing parameters and parking on busy beaches.

- Committee members understood and supported the Town position for this year, but emphasized the critical nature of the situation, and limited postponement to 2020 only, emphasizing the vital protection of Town natural resources. The Shellfish Committee originally raised the matter from worry about destruction of prime scalloping grounds.

- TTOR reported bird nesting intrusion on the area designated for mooring.

- They were in the process of modifying properties (Wasque, MyToi, Norton Point...) to conform to the Covid-19 regulations, i.e. gatehouses, parking, signage, etc.

- Jame Hagerty advised TTOR that social distancing would naturally restrict numbers and that it would be better to let boats spread out and beach where they could.

- TTOR Director Sam Hart, explained that TTOR standing regulations were more stringent than the State's (see below: Actions).

- The Committee expressed their appreciation of and sympathy for TTOR's situation.

- Kiteboarding Schools were a major part of the problem.

- Local community kiteboarders seemed to know the area and conform to self-imposed and Federal regulations (e.g.staying 200 yds. from shorebird nesting areas).

- Kiteboarding Schools committed to strict self-regulation but had not performed as promised.

- MARTIN SKIP TOMASSIAN MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT KITEBOARDING SCHOOLS' ANNUAL COMMERCIAL MARINE LICENSE RENEWAL BE DENIED; MOTION WITHDRAWN PENDING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS.

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE VEHEMENT RECOMMENDATION OF HARBORMASTER CHARLIE BLAIR THAT THE KITEBOARDING SCHOOLS' ANNUAL COMMERCIAL MARINE LICENSES NOT BE RENEWED.

6) Old Business *(as needed)*

a. Abandoned Boats

The *See Saw* was still afloat (see 3/11/20 Minutes p.1 #3), and there was no word from Sam Kistler.

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7) Dredge Committee Representative Report

a. Dredge Recommendation (See documents on file.)

Permitting had become a harder process taking 5-10 years each and sometimes requiring littoral drift studies. Sand continued to be valuable, being sellable for renourishment of private or municipal beaches, as well as being used to renourish Edgartown beaches. The Committee discussed navigation, Katama, and sand-mining.

* Martin Tomassian left the meeting at 5:16PM.

5) Committee Business

a) Approval of Minutes (3/11/20)

• *BRUCE MCINTOSH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 11, 2020 MINUTES; ED HANDY SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—SCOTT MORGAN—AYE, BRUCE MCINTOSH—AYE, ED HANDY—ABSTAIN* due to absence.

8) New Business/Public Comment – None

- The Committee discussed the Governor's anticipated announcement on phased lifting of the Covid-19 Executive Order.
- They wished Scott Morgan good luck in his venture.
- Thanks went to Doug Finn for setting up the Zoom meeting.

9) Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None

10) Adjournment

BRUCE MCINTOSH MOVED TO ADJOURN 5:20PM; ED HANDY SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: SCOTT MORGAN—AYE, BRUCE MCINTOSH—AYE, ED HANDY—AYE.

Actions:

- All – view dredge list and consider priorities
- Sam H./Chris K./TTOR - send standing regulations to James Hagerty & Parks/Rec.

Documents on File

- Agenda 5/13/20
- Mulinare email re: Request for Input on Dredge Permit List (2 p.) 2/18/20