

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

**Date:** May 19, 2021

**Members Present:** Chair - Bruce McIntosh, Ed Handy,

**Other people present:** Charlie Blair – Harbormaster, Marni Lipke – recorder,  
Misha Strumwasser—Falmouth Marine/Pied Piper,

**Next Meeting Date:** TBD

**Meeting Opened:** 4:00PM

**1) Call to Order**

**2) Water Taxi Proposal – Falmouth Marine/Vineyard Haven Marina**

(See documents on file.)

- The proposal had undergone the following changes.
  - The Town Administrator requested and Falmouth Marine provided a firm understanding with the Steamship Authority (SSA).
  - The Oak Bluffs stop was eliminated due to jetty problems and the lack of alternate drop-off/pickup space.
  - The proposal focused on peak season Vineyard Haven/Edgartown runs increasing service from 7 to 9 trips per day of which 5 were evening trips after 4:45PM. Memorial Wharf stops would be 5-10 minutes except for one 15 minute stop.
- The Committee revisited the issue of Memorial Wharf use reaching the saturation point, and also as a traditional recreational fishing pier, particularly in the evening.
  - Steve Ewing and Harbormaster Charlie Blair acknowledged the points and discussed the configuration of this year's float and locations for the stops. They supported a trial run for a year—commercial marine licenses had to be renewed annually in any case. Falmouth Marine agreed that this was a trial year to see if it was a viable venture and would contact the Harbormaster about drop-off/pickup locations.
  - There was a discussion on the reduction in charter boat business, exacerbated by the Covid pandemic. The taxi shuttle was much smaller than the company's charter boats.
- *ED HANDY MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE REVISED FALMOUTH WATER TRANSPORTATION, INC. TAXI PROPOSAL FOR 10 MINUTE ONLY STOPS AT MEMORIAL WHARF TO BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY AS WILL EVERY COMMERCIAL MARINE LICENSE; BRUCE MCINTOSH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ED HANDY—AYE, BRUCE MCINTOSH—AYE.*
- There was a brief discussion on commercial marine license renewal/application protocol that might include preliminary Marine Advisory review, followed by formal application to appropriate boards and then formal Marine Advisory recommendation.

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**3) Correspondence – Property Owner Concerns on Dock Permit Regulations**  
(See documents on file.)

Public records showed these were old Chapter 91 permits on what was then Federally owned property. Charlie Blair reviewed the changed landscape from the bridge to the Lighthouse with 5 piers, to how the jetty resulted in sand fill out to the Lighthouse.

**4) Old Business – as needed**

**a) Edgartown Harbor Plan Update – Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC)**

A meeting with State representative Steve McKenna focused on getting the correct revision form that would contain basically what the Marine Advisory recommended (see Minutes: 9/25/13 p.2 #5 & 11/9/16 p.1 #2).

**b) Harborside Inn Condominium Waterfront Access Court Case**

**Proposal Update – Steve Ewing, Jane Varkonda**

(See below: Actions & Minutes: 10/9/19 p.1 #2 & 10/15/19 & 10/30/19 p.1-2 #2, 11/13/19 p.1-2 #2, 12/4/19 p.1 #2, & 1/15/20 p.1 #2.)

The Harborside recently contacted Steve Ewing for a more formal estimate of the proposal for handicapped access up to and through the boat house ramp across that first pier level to a big square viewing area. Marine Advisory reviewed a number of issues:

- changes to State rules on Chapter 31 pier permits;
- Harborside pier operating as an un-permitted marina which should have, water, pump-out and other services now supplied by the Town;
- previous legal questions on ceding rights to Town land;
- pressuring the Atlantic Restaurant for better public access;
- Harborside proclivity to drag the case out indefinitely.

**5) Harbormaster Report**

**c) Cape Pogue Anchoring Moratorium Update/Discussion**

Markers were installed and hopefully the banner and sign would be up by Memorial Day. The Trustees of Reservation (TTOR) had stopped all vehicle traffic but beach landing regulations were not yet established.

**6) Committee Business**

• Towards the end of the meeting the Committee discussed the lifting of State Covid restrictions including returning to in-person meetings. However, Zoom allowed easier and more convenient participation, for example for Misha Strumwasser of Falmouth Marine eliminating multiple trips to the Island to complete the application process.

- It was agreed that site visits should be resumed.

• After 13 months as Chair and in view of “Skip” Tomassian’s refusal to accept the post: *BRUCE MCINTOSH NOMINATED ED HANDY AS CHAIR; ED HANDY RELUCTANTLY SECONDED; ED HANDY ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION; NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: ED HANDY—AYE, BRUCE MCINTOSH—AYE.*

