



Town of Edgartown Fisherman's Landing Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes

October 8th, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The virtual meeting of the Fisherman's Landing Stewardship Committee (FLSC) was called to order at 10:04am on Friday, October 8th, 2021.

II. ROLL CALL:

The following persons were present:

Members: Peter Vincent, Steve Ewing, Ken Michel, Jane Varkonda, Ed Handy

Abutters: Jodi Landau, Joe Sieber, Brian Carty, Mary Carty, Eric Caplan, Fred Fournier

III. OPEN ISSUES:

- a) A motion was made by Ed to approve the 9/20/21 draft minutes; Paul seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 5-0, Paul abstains.
- b) Jane distributed a draft Rules and Regulations for the Committee to review. The Committee had these comments:
 - The area should be called the "Fisherman's Landing Mooring Field"
 - A resident is to be defined as, "someone who owns property". Steve commented that not all current mooring permit holders are property owners.
 - Parking shall be limited to 9 "motor" vehicles.
 - Storage of vessels should be defined as "dinghies or other small tenders".
 - Dinghy storage allowed from May 1st to November 1st, with an exception for commercial fishermen.
 - Suggestion to add a contact phone number to the sign, for people to call with questions or concerns.
 - Add that "storage of any other items on the property is prohibited".
 - Add "sunbathing" to the list of prohibited activities.
- c) The Committee discussed out hauls at the beach and consensus was that they should be prohibited, except with special permission, and with an exemption for fishermen who have existing operations involving out hauls at the landing.
- d) Steve stated that the Town has always encouraged fishing and shell fishing and should continue to support that.
- e) Abutter Eric Caplan had some questions for the Committee. He stated that he is a homeowner on Katama Bay Road and one of the two original mooring permit holders at Fisherman's Landing. He asked whether the recreational use of kayaks would be allowed, or whether kayak storage was limited to kayaks as tenders only. Steve stated that recreational kayaks should be launched at the landing down the street and can only be stored as tenders. Mr. Caplan asked whether the opening date for dinghy storage could be changed to April 1st or whether he could just get permission from the Harbormaster. Jane said to just get permission from the Harbormaster. Mr. Caplan asked about enforcement of permits. Jane stated that the permits will be annual and any fines

issued for non-stickered vehicles or dinghies would receive the maximum fine allowed by law. Peter added that enforcement of the area falls to the Harbormaster's Office, the Police Dept., the Conservation Commission and the Shellfish Dept. Mr. Caplan then asked whether enforcement would be regular or would rely on reporting from other permit holders. Peter stated that it would be a combination of both.

- f) Peter suggested that a line should be added to the Rules & Regs that there would be punishment for damage or defacement of the area (ie tampering with the chain or lock). Jane agreed.
- g) Mr. Caplan asked how many moorings were in the mooring field. Steve stated that he estimated around 63; most are temporary moorings (mushroom anchors) so the number of moorings can fluctuate. Mr. Caplan asked if there was enough room to store 60 tenders. Steve said probably not and the Committee is working to maximize storage of tenders while also not obstructing any views.
- h) Ed reported from the Marine Advisory Committee that the Harbormaster has agreed to continue to issue permits. Steve commented that currently the stickers are applicable at other town landings as well. Ed responded that the stickers should change and should only be applicable at Fisherman's Landing.
- i) Abutter Joe Sieber stated that parking on the street is an issue. Jane said that there is a No Parking sign along the road but more could be added. Mr. Sieber stated that cars park on the side roads as well. Peter responded that cars parked illegally on the road is not an issue under the purview of the FLSC. The Committee discussed parking issues and is hoping that the fee for the parking stickers will encourage more self-policing of the area.
- j) Mr. Caplan asked about limiting access for non-stickered vehicles. Peter stated that the Committee is still discussing the options for addressing this – whether there's a gate or chain at the entrance is still to be decided.
- k) The Committee then discussed the draft Landscape Plan including the location of the turnaround, the dinghy storage area and whether to move or replace the existing *rosa rugosa*.
- l) Abutter Mr. Carty asked the Committee who the donor of the land was and expressed concern that the proposed plantings will affect the view from his residence. Steve stated that the draft landscape plan is a work in progress and then gave a brief synopsis of the land that was donated and the circumstances under which it was donated. He added that the gentleman who purchased the sub-divided lot is planning to build a house there that may obscure water views further. He stated that the FLSC is also considering a green screen to block that property and would be happy to consider view avenues of other abutters in order to avoid obstructing everyone's views as much as possible. Mr. Carty stated that he would be very interested in participating in the development of the landscape plan and was concerned about the use of Juniper trees, which he said can grow up to 90 feet tall. Jane said she would like to schedule a meeting with the landscape designer and all interested abutters to create a plan that is desirable for everyone.
- m) Abutter Jodi Landau asked if there would be a management plan for the plantings to make sure they are kept low. Peter asked if she was asking for a view easement to which she replied, "yes, ideally". Jane stated that view easements over public land are "a slippery slope" for private property owners but she is happy to work with the neighbors on tree selections.
- n) Ms. Landau asked if the ConCom has jurisdiction over the plantings. Jane said, yes, to some degree; but certainly when it comes to public vistas from the harbor.

- o) Ms. Landau asked for a synopsis of the process from this point forward and when she would be able to offer input on the landscape plan. Steve stated that it would be beneficial to vote on the draft plan so that it can be shared with abutters in the near future. The Committee agreed.
- p) Motion placed on the floor by Ed to preliminarily approve the draft landscape plan as well as the draft Rules & Regs so they can be distributed to the abutters for input. Steve seconds, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 6-0.
- q) The Committee decided to meet again in one week, on 10/15/21 at 10:00am.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:06am.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare