



## Edgartown Marine Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2022

### I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Marine Advisory Committee was called to order at 3:00pm on Wednesday, October 5, 2022 via Zoom teleconference.

The following persons were present:

**Members:** Ed Handy, Bruce McIntosh, Martin "Skip" Tomassian, Charlie Blair

**Guests:** Harrison Kisiel, Weezie O'Brien, Bill Brine, Katie Ryan, Penn Edmonds, Don McLagan, Cornelia Hurst

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion placed on the floor by Skip to approve the draft meeting minutes from 9/21/22. Bruce seconds, no discussion, vote taken and passed 3-0.*

### III. LANDBANK PROPOSAL FOR REMOVABLE FLOATING DOCK AT CALEB'S POND

Mr. Kisiel of the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank had previously submitted an application to construct a pier on Caleb's Pond. Mr. Kisiel explained that the Land Bank is no longer applying to construct a floating pier, the application has been modified to a request for a raised kayak launch. The structure would consist of four sections, each 8' long, with a ladder at the end. Mr. Kisiel presented photos and a diagram of the proposed structure. Ed asked where the structure ends in relation to the high-tide line. Mr. Kisiel stated that the structure would be 2' above the water at high tide. After brief discussion amongst the Committee, Ed asked if there was any public comment.

Ms. Ryan, a permanent resident who lives two properties down from the proposed site asked the Marine Advisory Committee not to recommend this plan for approval. She stated that the structure still functions as a pier and would interrupt a pristine and otherwise undeveloped shoreline. Ms. Ryan said she reviewed the Town's Harbor Management Plan and there are numerous places within the plan that specifically prohibit new piers on Caleb's Pond. She also opposes the installation of decking over the salt marsh.

Mr. McLagan is a neighbor on Litchfield Road. He agreed with Ms. Ryan that this was still effectively a dock, and asked the Committee not to recommend this proposal

Charlie Blair stated that he was pleased to see the floating pier withdrawn, and although he supports public access, he said it would be challenging to launch a kayak off the proposed ladder. Mr. Hurst stated that he lives next door to Ms. Ryan and is also requesting the Committee vote not to recommend. He said other elements of the project, such as access to the dock and required ADA compliance had not been factored in.

Mr. Brine stated that he lives on Caleb's Pond and while he cannot see the location of the proposed structure from his property, it has always been "no docks" on Caleb's Pond. He said it would substantially change the look of the pond and would open the door for many other applications (that would forever change the look of the pond) should it get approved.

Mr. Edwards, a new neighbor to the south of the Land Bank property, said he echoed the other neighbors and is hoping the Committee votes not to recommend.

Ms. Ryan stated that the nearby Gardner Property has a public landing that provides public access to Caleb's Pond.

Ed reiterated that the Harbor Plan states that no piers be allowed in Caleb's Pond and Skip agreed that constructing something in that location would absolutely change the dynamics of the pond. Skip stated that this idea was ill-conceived and he could not vote in favor. Bruce stated that he was in favor of the proposal because Caleb's Pond is a wonderful natural resource with very little public access available and he is a big supporter of expanding public access. Ed stated that he was not in favor of fiberglass being installed in the salt marsh; Bruce and Skip agreed. Skip asked whether the applicant might want to withdraw the application to replace the fiberglass with a more natural option. Mr. Kisiel stated that the fiberglass design was implemented to satisfy the Conservation Commission; he cannot withdraw the application.

*Motion placed on the floor by Skip not to recommend the Land Bank's application for a proposed kayak launch on Caleb's Pond as many abutters and the Harbormaster have all spoken against it. Ed seconds the motion, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 2-1. Ed – Aye, Skip – Aye, Bruce – Nay.*

#### **IV. VOTE ON NORTON BOATHOUSE PIER EXTENSION**

The Committee reviewed their previous discussion on the Vineyard Preservation Trust's proposed application to add a pier at the Norton Boathouse. On a site visit earlier in the month the Committee had noted the pier's proximity to the Memorial Wharf, as well as the bottleneck it would create for access to the Police and Fire boats.

*Motion placed on the floor by Bruce to deny the VPT's request for an additional pier in this location, based on the above concerns. Skip seconds the motion, no further discussion, vote taken and passed 3-0.*

#### **V. COMMERCIAL MARINE LICENSES**

Charlie stated that the current Marine licenses will all expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year so this is the Committee's chance to inform the Selectboard (the license issuing authority) of the issues regarding the charter boats carrying too many passengers. Charlie said he has received a number of emails from people stating the license holders are not adhering to the rules. Charlie said he has lots of written guidance from the USCG to share with the Committee that will allow for some recourse to address this problem. He continued that because the Town issues the licenses, they are liable should anything happen. The Committee will add "Potential New Regulations for Commercial Maritime Licenses" to its next meeting agenda. Ed suggested that James should attend and that the license renewal list be generated for the Committee to review.

Charlie also asked the Committee to include "Easement to Inner Harbor" for mooring access on the next meeting agenda.

#### **VI. HARBORMASTER REPORT**

The Committee discussed the requirements for becoming a Harbormaster in Massachusetts. Charlie stated that all Harbormasters must be graduates of the Reserve Police Academy now.

#### **VII. FISHERMAN'S LANDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The easement still has not been recorded so there is no update.

## **VIII. DREDGE REPORT**

Juliet reported that she had submitted the grant application for funding to support the renewal of the Comprehensive Permit to the Seaport Economic Council.

## **IX. WHARF COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Charlie reported that he had submitted an application to the Community Preservation Committee for funding to support improvements at North Wharf.

## **X. MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

None.

## **XI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ed stated that James is reconstituting a Committee to update the Harbor Plan. The Committee will include four members in addition to the Marine Advisory Committee. The goal is to update the plan so that it garners approval from the State

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, voted and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:00pm.

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare