



## Edgartown Marine Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2022

### I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Marine Advisory Committee was called to order at 3:00pm on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 via Zoom teleconference.

The following persons were present:

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

**Guests:** Jane Varkonda, Charlie Blair, Kara Shemeth, Nevette Previd, John Klein

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion placed on the floor by Bruce to approve the draft meeting minutes from 9/7/22. Skip seconds, no discussion, vote taken and passed 3-0.*

### III. VINEYARD PRESERVATION TRUST – NORTON BOATHOUSE PIER EXTENSION

Ms. Previd, Executive Director of the Vineyard Preservation Trust, was present to request approval from the Committee to add an additional pier (parallel to an existing pier) extending from the Norton Boathouse out to an existing piling. VPT has been working with the Woods Hole Group on two different plan options, both of which were sent to the Committee. Ms. Previd stated that the existing pier has a Chapter 91 license but the goal would be to re-license both piers together to avoid potential confusion. The Committee asked for clarification on who owns the existing pier. Ms. Previd responded that the Trust owns the structure on the right (45 Dock St.), while Mr. Weeks own the structure on the left (41 Dock St).

Bruce expressed concern over the proposed pier's proximity to the Memorial Wharf and police/fire boat area. He said that a new pier in that location could limit the potential use of the town dock in the future and that, in his opinion, a new pier would make that location too tight to be able to safely maneuver. Skip said it depended on the size of the boats that would be docked there. The Committee discussed the location of the property lines.

Ms. Previd stated that the existing pier belongs to the Trust except for a portion that extends from Mr. Week's property.

Charlie stated that the property lines in this area can get very confusing due to riparian rights, etc. He suggested a site visit to get a better sense of the space. He also expressed some concern that the boat shown on the drawing provided by the WHG would be too big to get a Harbormaster boat past.

*Motion placed on the floor by Skip to continue the discussion indefinitely until a site visit can be scheduled. Bruce seconds the motion.*

*Discussion:*

Kara expressed concerns, as a Captain of the Fire Department, and asked that representatives from the Police and Fire Dept be present at the site visit.

Ms. Previd stated that the pier could be used for boats smaller than the one depicted in the diagram and that she would go back to WHG to confirm measurements and dimensions and have them added to the diagram. She also stated that, currently, the safety boat is docked on VPT

property and that “she hopes this board would consider neighborly action”. The Committee clarified that as long as the boat is in the water, it is not on the VPT’s property.

Charlie asked Ms. Previd to remove the boats entirely from the diagram and show just the measurements.

Ed asked what the end-game for the new pier is. Ms. Previd said it would increase the revenue potential for the property. Charlie stated that if there are more than nine boats docked there, it will require a marina license.

*No further discussion, vote taken and passed, 3-0.*

The Committee set a tentative date for a site visit but will confirm with the other stakeholders.

#### **IV. HARBORSIDE PUBLIC WATER ACCESS**

Jane said she has not heard anything from them in a long time but they have been blocking the public access point with restaurant tables all summer. Jane said she intends to inform DEP but has not had a chance to write a letter yet. The Committee felt strongly that The Atlantic Restaurant should face consequences for continuing to disobey the town. Jane will send a letter to all parties, including the Selectboard and DEP, alerting them to this issue.

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

Charlie stated that, as Harbormaster, he does not have a list of who holds commercial marine licenses. He is not the enforcement agency, the USCG is so it is under their jurisdiction. Charlie stated that the Coast Guard has been informed that there have been instances of more than 6 passengers on vessels and that when the USCG inquired, they were told that passengers were non-paying guests. Ed said he will ask for a current list of license holders and renewals for discussion at the next meeting. Skip stated that marine licenses can be renewed with conditions, if appropriate.

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

Charlie reported that it was a quieter summer than it has been in the past; there were fewer day trippers than in years past. Cape Pogue was a lot smoother as well, the Trustees opened the beach to boaters so there was less impact to the shellfish.

Charlie reported that there were eight new cameras installed on the Memorial Wharf and that the cameras around town have been very effective in stopping people from stealing dinghies.

Charlie expressed regret over the incident at the bid bridge where two young men drowned in August but stated that the first responders were exemplary in their response and coordination with other towns. The fact that it was a recovery, and not a rescue, was very sad.

There were no boat thefts and only a couple medical transports.

All in all, it was a successful summer.

Charlie commended his staff and noted that he had a lot of women and a lot of young folks working for him this summer; he also has established a core group of about 13 employees that return each summer which makes his job much easier.

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

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

## **VIII. DREDGE REPORT**

Ed reported that the Dredge will not be going into Tashmoo this year. It will be launched on 10/14/22 and will head to the Little Bridge first before going to the Great Pond.

The Katama Landing reconstruction will begin on or around 10/15/22.

Jane stated that she is desperate for sand for both Left Fork and Right Fork, both of which are experiencing significant erosion. The grant application that she submitted to CZM for phase 2 of the South Beach dune restoration project was not successful but she still needs sand. She asked whether she should plan to purchase the sand or if there will be any available through the various projects taking place. Ed asked her to attend the next Dredge meeting, where they plan to discuss the issue. Charlie asked whether Great Pond sand can be used. Ed responded that it depends on the status of the beach whether haul trucks can reach the dewatering location. Ed stated that there is about 5,000 CY of sand at the Little Bridge. The Committee discussed alternatives for retaining the sand dredged from the Great Pond such as pumping to the Sluiceway and trucking from there. Jane said that previously that has not been permitted by landowners, but it is possible things have changed.

## **IX. WHARF COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Juliet informed the Committee that the Engineering proposal submitted by Child's Engineering for North Wharf was accepted by the Wharf Committee so the permitting process will begin with an NOI to the ConCom.

Kara Shemeth informed the Committee that the Fire Department had used the Wharf for a 9/11 remembrance ceremony that was very successful and the Fire Dept may request the use of the Wharf for an annual ceremony.

## **X. MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

None.

## **XI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 3:00pm.

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

Minutes submitted by: Juliet Mulinare