

**Edgartown Marine Advisory Committee  
Town Hall  
Minutes**

**Date:** April 8, 2015

**Members Present:** Gary Look, Ed Handy, Martin "Skip" Tomassian

**Other people present:** Charlie Blair - Harbormaster  
Margaret Serpa, Arthur Smadbeck - Selectmen  
Donald Benefit, William Bishop, Thomas Teller,  
Marni Lipke - Recorder

**Next Meeting Date:** April 22, 2015

**Meeting Opened:** 3:05PM

**1) Collins Beach, Meet with Selectmen for Discussion and Input**

The recommended options to regulate parking were reviewed (see 2/11/15 Minutes p. 2 # 3), as was some of the history of the Beach.

- The three members of the public emphasized the working nature of the beach as access for the marine industries, fishermen, charters, boat launchings, etc. and objected to any parking regulations.
- When the abutters bought the properties the Beach was already in place with a long tradition of use.
- They also felt that once regulated, parking would be forever restricted.
- The Selectmen asked about the source of the parking regulation initiative. Chair Gary Look explained that the Collins Beach Committee had been formed at the request of Town Administrator Pam Dolby and the Selectmen, caused by numerous summer abutter complaints and when the previous "No Parking" signs had to be removed as unlawful.
- Further discussion centered on the state of the beach, including use as a parking lot, derelict trailers, abandoned dinghies tied to abutter fencing, a boat blocking gate access, use during the winter ice by the Shellfish aquaculture farmers, and lost sand foundation.
- **THERE WAS CONSENSUS TO FOREGO PARKING REGULATION FOR ONE YEAR UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**
  - **THE BEACH SAND TO BE REPLENISHED;**
  - **THE HARBOR DEPARTMENT TO CLEAR COLLINS BEACH INCLUDING ALL TRAILERS AND THE BOAT BLOCKING ABUTTER ACCESS, TAKING EVERYTHING TO THE FISHERMEN'S DEPOT—OWNERS TO PAY HAULAGE COST IN ORDER TO RECLAIM THEIR PROPERTY;**
  - **THE HARBOR DEPARTMENT TO INSTALL A HEAVY CHAIN FOR DINGHY TIE-UPS;**

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- THE ABUTTER TO BE ASKED TO POST HIS OWN "DO NOT BLOCK THE GATE/NO PARKING" SIGN AND IF POSSIBLE TO CHANGE THE GATE HINGES TO OPEN INWARD;
- THE HARBORMASTER TO CONTACT THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE THAT OYSTER FARMERS WERE TO DO ALL WORK ON THEIR PLOTS; WITH EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES (ICE/SNOW, ETC.) AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE, CONSTABLE AND HARBORMASTER;
- THE HARBORMASTER AND POLICE TO INCREASE COLLINS BEACH MONITORING.

It was noted that the owners of the illegally parked boat and three abandoned trailers had been given repeated and recent warnings and requests to move their property.

- **MARTIN SKIP TOMASSIAN MOVED TO SEND A LETTER TO THE SELECTMEN RECOMMENDING THAT THEY PROCEED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN A CONSERVATION COMMISSION PERMIT FOR SAND RESTORATION ON COLLINS BEACH; ED HANDY SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Everyone loved the beach and found it a vital part of the Edgartown Harbor.

**2) Approve Minutes**

- *ED HANDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 25, 2015 MINUTES; MARTIN SKIP TOMASSIAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION – ED HANDY* due to absence.

**3) Old Business** (See 5/35/15 Minutes p. 1 #1.)

Harbormaster Charlie Blair stated that since the principal place of business for Plan Sea Adventure Charters, LLC, was at Waquoit (East Falmouth), an Edgartown license was unnecessary, with the understanding that pick-up and drop-off was at Memorial Wharf only. Notification was the purview of the Harbormaster and the Marine Advisory Board had no further jurisdiction over the matter.

**4) New Business**

- Charlie Blair reported that at the recent Convention he signed up for a no cost one-year trial of Dockwa.com, a dockage and moorage reservation system to replace the current 15 yr. old software. The system eliminated credit card charges, and was financed by a \$2.50 user fee and point-of-sale advertising. It was designed for harbors (rather than previous systems adapted from hotel reservation software) and would be run this year side by side with the current system to test it out. It was already in use by a number of harbors, and included such features as future lock-out for owners who misrepresented the size of their boats.

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- A site visit was scheduled for Sutphin Pier/Edgartown LLC (see below: Actions).
- Chair Gary look informed the Board that he submitted a letter requesting he not be reappointed so that the April 22nd meeting would be his last (see below: Actions).

Meeting Adjourned:

- *ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:06PM.*

**Documents on File**

- Agenda 4/8/15
- Sign In Sheet 4/8/15

**Actions:**

- All – consider re-organization in view of Gary's last meeting.
- Gary – post Sutphin Pier Site Visit - 9:30AM Monday, 4/13/15.
- Charlie – write letter to Plan Sea Adventures
- Charlie – Collins Beach
- work with Selectmen and ConCom on beach renourishment permit.
- move all trailers, dinghies, boat to Fishermen's Depot - owners to pay haulage when claiming property,
- install a dinghy chain
- ask abutter to post his own 'Do Not Block Gate' sign and possibly change gate hinges to swing in.
- contact Edgartown Shellfish Committee re: oyster farmers work on plots only, extenuating circumstances at discretion of Shellfish Com. & Harbormaster.
- monitor Beach along with Police to keep it clear.