

Harbor Management and Improvement Committee

Minutes of Meeting
December 7, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m.

Attending: Al Hutchins, Dave Persson, Eli Baird, Ellery Brown, Nick Carter, Brian Larkin, Maynard Bray, Matt Dallett, Mike Sherman, Jon Wilson, David Tarr, Brewster Bassett, Jan Bassett
From Brooklin Select Board: Stacia Nevin, David Reiley

Stacia Nevin distributed the *Marine Resources: Goals and Objectives* page from the 2023 Brooklin Comprehensive Plan and materials from 2020 activity of the Committee, as well as an agenda for the meeting. She called the roll, after which Matt Dallett was elected Secretary.

Stacia noted the Committee's intended function as described in the Goals and Objectives handout. The immediately relevant Objectives are "Develop a plan to adequately improve and manage the Town's landings" and "Maintain and improve mooring access." She said that the Committee needs to consider the challenges and the opportunities presented by each of the Town's seven public access locations (landings), which are identified in the Comprehensive Plan, and to make recommendations to the Town for addressing them.

David Reiley reported that he and other Town officials regularly field inquiries about the process for setting moorings. He said that there is often confusion due to the lack of legal requirements (other than those of the Army Corps), and he tries to provide practical guidance. There was a discussion about that process and particular challenges, with several members sharing their experiences. The question of adopting an ordinance to govern moorings was briefly raised but not pursued. It was generally agreed that it would be helpful to prepare an outline of the process with information about the special circumstances of each of the landings and contractors available to do the work.

There was a lengthy discussion about use of the beach and the need for work on the structures at Naskeag Harbor. David Reiley provided an update on prior discussions with adjacent landowners, then said that the Town's contractor expects to receive a permit for placing riprap where needed this winter. Nick Carter noted that the Committee's responsibilities will include communicating with and advising contractors and vendors performing work at the landings.

Al Hutchins described two projects he expects to do this winter. One will be lowering the launching ramp to facilitate low tide use, which he said he will do at no charge. The other will be constructing a dinghy dock, which David said has already been approved and budgeted. There was general agreement that the dinghy dock will benefit all users of the harbor by reducing the parking lot space occupied by trailers. Al and the Committee members who fish out of the harbor discussed regulating and safeguarding the dinghies that will be left at the dock, a topic that will be addressed again in the Spring.

Nick Carter was then elected Chair of the Committee, and Eli Baird was elected Vice Chair. There was general agreement that the Committee should initially plan to meet monthly, with the next meeting to be held at 4:00 p.m. on January 11, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Dallett