

Harbor Management and Improvement Committee

Minutes of Meeting
March 14, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.

Attending: Nick Carter, Chair; David Reiley; Jon Wilson; David Tarr; Dave Persson, Bill Mayher; Brian Larkin, Matt Dallett, Secretary

The meeting was called to order and the minutes of the meeting held on February 8, 2024, were approved.

The Committee addressed the proposed upgrade of the Duck Cove landing property. There was a discussion about maintenance of the access roads, the necessary signage, the area needed for parking for the landing, and circumstances in which use of the landing might be limited. Several Committee members volunteered to clear the trail from the planned parking area to the waterfront. The Committee approved recommending to the Select Board that the Town take steps to enhance Duck Cove landing as discussed by the Committee, with Matt to draft a recommendation for Committee review. It was the sense of the meeting that David Reiley should continue to address access matters as well as initiating arrangements for constructing adequate parking for users of the landing.

David Reiley and David Tarr reported on the progress of the work on the launching ramp at Naskeag Point, as well as what's still needed, including modifying the asphalt adjacent to the ramp to reduce water damage. The Committee reviewed updated language for the sign to be posted near the proposed dinghy dock, and there was further discussion of the anticipated use and issues that may arise.

The Committee also addressed mooring availability and access at Naskeag Point in light of the Comprehensive Plan's focus on those concerns. It was generally agreed that there is no lack of available space for moorings anticipated in the near future, and David Tarr proposed to view aerial photographs to consider longer-term needs. Parking needs were also discussed. It is expected that the new dinghy dock will free up some area now occupied by boat trailers, and suggestions were made for increasing the number of spaces. Committee members will monitor the situation over the summer.

There followed a discussion of the observations made during the Committee's March 9 evaluation of Bridge's Point, addressing the damage from the most recent storm, limits on access and parking while the current roadbed is soft from frost and rain, the need for a concrete plank ramp to be constructed to the high tide mark, and enhanced signage for recreational visitors. It was agreed that the roadbed and parking area should be upgraded as soon as practicable. David Reiley commented on the availability of funding for such work.

It was the sense of the meeting that mooring availability at Bridges Point will be limited only by the lack of shelter from the weather, and that, once the road and ramp are constructed, there will be sufficient access for anyone wishing to moor there.

Next, the Committee addressed the Herrick Bay landing, next to Bay Road at the head of Herrick Bay. There was a brief discussion of parking at the location as well as the state of the culvert under the road, which is expected to be replaced by the Department of Transportation. Nick and Jon agreed to evaluate the landing for the Committee.

Matt agreed to evaluate the Pooduck landing. There followed a brief discussion of the desirability of shore access on the Benjamin River. The next Committee meeting was then set for 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 11.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Dallett, Secretary