

Town of Bristol, Rhode Island



Harbor Commission

10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809
401-253-7000

**HARBOR COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 6, 2023**

Harbor Commission: Jim Dollins, John McDonald, Steve Janaurio

Alternates: Torre Peterson

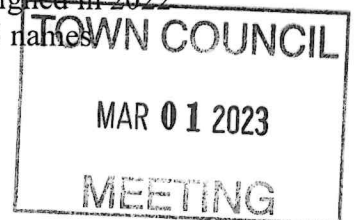
Advisory Board: Owen O'Rourke, Wayne Gablinske, Michael Tamulaites

Harbormaster: N/A

Liaison: N/A

Jim Dollins called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. January meeting minutes were approved.
2. The Harbormaster was out of town; however, he provided a written update on the status of open issues as provided below.
3. Status of New Marina & Fuel Dock – work continues to get everything operating such as water, waste disposal and electrical. Tentative completion date remains sometime in April. No change on electrical inspection fees from State as they are still being reviewed.
3. Proposed amendment to Section 1. Chapter 46-4 of the General laws entitled "Harbors and Harbor Lines" -- A copy of the proposal 2023 - - H 5230 was received for review. An electronic copy will be sent to all BHC members and alternates to allow informed discussion. In short, the State is clarifying the authority and jurisdiction of towns or cities with regard to "houseboats".
4. Report of the Harbormaster
 - A. State St Ramp & Ind Park Launch Docks – Gregg M. to meet with Pare engineering.
 - B. Dock Repair & Maintenance – progress continues and there is no update at this time.
 - C. Maritime Center Sign for Building – Gregg M advises sign design is being revised to include appropriate contact information such as phone contact number.
 - D. Trash Skimmer – no change in status.
 - E. Wait List for Marina – currently 78 slips of which 50 were assigned in 2022 and approximately 28 are transients. Current Wait list has 165 names.



- F. Dinghy Dock Winter Rates – remain the same.
- G. Gibson Rd ROW Ramp Repair – alternatives are being looked at, and Ed Tanner continues working on with BHIA.
- I. ROWs – Right of Way projects are just about finished and Gregg will have Ed Tanner hopefully go over the scope of work at the March meeting.
- J. Fales Rd ROW Marker – DPW fixed hole in street and repaired the stairs.

Ramp needs crack repairs.

- K. 5 MPH sign – Bob Hamel was advised by Gregg M. that no floating sign is allowed within Bristol harbor. Alternatives discussed at the meeting were a fixed pole with 5 MPH sign attached as well as larger buoys with 5 MPH speed limit marked.
- 5. Breakwater Study Committee - Steve Janaurio reported that a meeting with Army Corps of Engineers has not yet occurred. A suggestion was made to include an alternative such as a larger dock system similar to the existing marina system be considered in lieu of a breakwater.
 - 6. Elks Lodge letter – a copy of the original letter dated Nov 22, 2022 was made available to the BHC. Electronic copies will be sent to BHC members as well as the Harbormaster office for review and comment.
 - 7. Open discussion from the Public –
 - A. A question was raised on the logic of changing Marina dock wait list as some on the wait list have seen their position go up, not down. Possible rationale discussed that citizens awarded slips are allowed to wait one year before filling a slip with an actual boat.
 - B. Several questions were raised over the future status of Prudence Island Ferry parking spots. Newspaper articles advised the current areas owned by (Russell) were to be withdrawn due to new Condo development at Robin Rug site.
 - C. An Elks Lodge representative asked if a temporary solution would be considered by BHC to allow 8 slips be assigned to the Elks Lodge until a final decision is reached. This was requested as the 2023 boating season is approaching. The Lodge's dock continues to suffer and is adversely impacted by rough water bouncing off of the new marina's dock system. The Lodge plans to launch its dock on May 1, 2023.
 - D. A comment was made that the USCG, when retrieving its boats at the State Street ramp, were worsening the damage to the existing hole at the end of the existing ramp by gunning their engines to push boat onto their trailer.

Meeting Adjournment at 7:50 PM.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- HARBORS AND HARBOR LINES

Introduced By: Representatives Carson, Craven, Caldwell, McEntee, Casimiro, McGaw,
Shanley, Kazarian, McNamara, and Finkelman

Date Introduced: January 25, 2023

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 46-4 of the General Laws entitled "Harbors and Harbor Lines" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **46-4-9. Houseboats - Town or city regulations.**

4 (a) Notwithstanding any general, public or special law to the contrary, and in addition to
5 any authority or powers conferred upon the town or city councils of the state, the authority to
6 regulate any houseboat and enforce any ordinance, rule or regulation in any public water within the
7 jurisdiction of the town or city shall be conferred to the town or city councils of the state.

8 (b) For purposes of this section, "houseboat" means a building constructed on a float, raft,
9 or barge that is used for single or multiple family habitation or is represented as a place of business
10 whether stationary or self-propelled. "Houseboat" includes platforms, and water borne hotels and
11 restaurants.

12 (c) Towns and cities may impose penalties pursuant to this section to be enforced by the
13 harbormaster and which shall not exceed a penalty in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars
14 (\$750) per day for violations occurring within the first seven (7) days, and for any day beyond such
15 day the penalty shall be one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per day.

16 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.



Bristol County R.I. Lodge No. 1860

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

P.O. Box 226 - Bristol, RI 02809

Telephone: (401) 253-9805

Chairman Harbor Commission
127 Thames St,
Bristol, RI 02809

November 22, 2022

Harbor Commission Members:

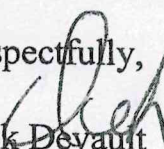
The Bristol Elks boat dock has been used for decades by its members. Families and grandparents would tie up to the dock and walk directly into the club to enjoy memorable days on the water and in the club.

The new Town Marina has negatively impacted the wave action and currents at our docks and thus has diminished the ability of our members to safely tie up and use them. Many members have informed us that most times they cannot use the dock due to the newly created wave action. Several members stated they can no longer bring their older relatives to the club by boat as the seniors' stability and walking capabilities are limited.

The Elk's dock is a significant asset to the Lodge and we believe the value of the asset has been greatly reduced due to the presence of the Town's new marina. Any future expansion of the Elks dock has been impacted as well. We are asking the Town to re-establish the basin's tranquility as it was prior to the construction of the marina so that our members are once again able to utilize our dock.

We greatly value our relationship with the Town and the Harbor Commission and respectfully request we reach a resolution quickly for our mutual benefit.

Respectfully,


Dick Devault
Exalted Ruler

Copy to: Harbor Master Greg Marsili
Vice -Chairman James Dollins ✓

Elks Care — Elks Share

A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION



ed Steve C
Gregg M.
Town Council ✓
H.C.
2/8/23
Jim D Collins
vice chair

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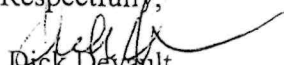
Bristol Harbor Commission
127 Thames St,
Bristol, RI 02809

Bristol Harbor Commission Members,

Over the previous three meetings of the Bristol Harbor Commission, there has been discussion of the negative impact of the new town marina on the docks at the Bristol County Elks Lodge. The town marina design produces major wave action at our slips that has not been seen before, consequently diminishing the ability of our members to safely tie up their boats and use our docks. At the Harbor Commission meeting on Jan 9, the Commission stated that their next action was to engage their engineering company to review the issue and provide a resolution. Although the Lodge certainly appreciates the Commission's effort to work with us on a solution, we are concerned that this issue may not be resolved prior to the 2023 boating season and therefore we are asking for a temporary solution until the issue is resolved.

The Lodge is requesting the town provide us (8) assigned slips in the town marina. We ask the Town to review and take action on this temporary solution request with written approval received no later than April 1, 2023. Please contact me or Eric Gardner, at 401-439-6930, with any questions on this issue.

Respectfully,


Dick Devault
Exalted Ruler

ERIC GARDNER
House Chairman

(Plants in by
5/1)

Elks Care — Elks Share