



Town of Bristol, Rhode Island

10 Court Street  
Bristol, RI 0280

## Harbor Commission

Minutes: April 4, 2024

**Harbor Commission:** Jim Dollins (Acting Chair), John McDonald, Wayne Gablinske, Steve Januario

**Advisory Board:** Pam Romano, Paul Hebert, Owen O'Rourke

**Alternates:** Wayne Gablinske

**Harbormasters:** Gregg Marsili, Jon Perry

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of March Minutes
3. Report of the Harbormaster
  - A. Last electrical panel should arrive this week
  - B. Ramps at Independence Park and State St: work continues
  - C. Maritime Center Sign: awaiting a quote...will be installed on electrical tower
  - D. Dock waiting list: 183 people
  - E. Gibson Road ROW repair: rejected by CRMC due to lack of public access and parking. Greg is working with Ed Tanner, Town Administrator, and BHIA; if continued work is going to happen there is a need for parking.  
Anne Gardner, BHIA Secretary reports that BHIA and the Town can delineate private/public space and she reports that there are 3 parking spaces available for the public along Shore Road near the tennis courts  
George Burman suggested better handicapped access for this ROW.
  - F. Portside ROW: wrapping up approval for Spring work. Next should be Anawamscutt, Sherman Ave. and Fales Road,
  - G. Appeals Hearing Scheduled for 3/12/24 at 6:00 PM.(new date 3/27/24) Town Solicitor will be in attendance. There are 1 dock and 3 mooring appeals.
4. Chapter 8 of Town Ordinances: Commission, Alternates, and Advisory Board all have copies and are encouraged to familiarize themselves with such. Greg outlined proposed changes:

**Section 64- H** Boat Slip Policy: Next year, all bills will be sent out electronically. Moorings can be paid with On-Line Mooring or in person with credit card, cash or check. Docks will still need to be paid in person

**Section 55** Anchored boats: add the requirement to have someone on board overnight.

**Section 55**-Mooring inspectors are in agreement with new guidelines that will be incorporated into the Ordinance.

Harbormaster distributed Proposed Changes to Chapter 8 in addition to what is outlined above that address dinghy/kayak racks, forfeiture of docks, racks, in water dinghy storage,. Proposed changes describe gates and electronic keyless entry to Church St Docks Rockwell will get the same in the future. He also proposed that all late fees (docks, moorings, racks) be \$50.00.

There was much discussion re: proposed changes in Chapter 8, role of the Harbor Commission, number of Commissioners, term limits, and how people are appointed. We will also begin recording meetings, and have a more formalized seating plan with name cards so that everyone can be properly identified.

5. Liability Issues: Representatives from Harbor Commission and Harbormaster met with town Council on Feb 28 to discuss the \$250,000 liability issue for slip holders. There are concerns from the commercial fishermen that this requirement could drive some of them out of business. The Council was asked for a 1 year delay but they agreed to delay Recreational boats for 2 months and Commercial 'till mid-October.
6. Commercial Parking Places: Signs ar up at 2 out of the 3 spaces.
7. Breakwater Study: On hold
8. Open Discussion: James Murray from Heritage Marine raised the issue of potential disruption to the environment with the proposes 6-12 foot trench for the Sakonnet River Cable . He feels that there have been inadequate studies and is looking for support from the Harbor Commission. There is an information session at Rogers Library on 3/14/24 at 6:30 PM

Adjourned:8:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Robert Hamel