

## 2024 Fall Harbormaster Report

Staff: Jim Engell was back for the summer to help cover shift work. We hired Morgan “Mo” Davis in May to fill the split shift position so had a full crew as we approached the summer.

Maintenance:

**North Harbor** – Seasonal cleaning and upkeep.

**Middle Harbor** – Seasonal cleaning and upkeep. With the sale of the Port Property, Maintenance moved a portion of the Harbor storage and equipment to the MH parking lot.

**South Harbor** – Seasonal cleaning and upkeep. Aging finger floats are a worry, so we are working with Rock n Road marine division to maintenance the piling collars and

**Crane Dock** – Crane inspector was through in June for annual inspection, listed a few corrections which were made and both received certification. The large crane continues to have issues with the rotor seal, Maintenance is working with P & R to purchase 2 new ones as our spare rebuilt is un- reliable.

**Drive Down** – Busy! The notice boards we put out posting reserved times works well and the fleet continues to be patient with other users needing access to the facility. Less reminders customers to use their time efficiently at the facility. The 30 day parking continues to get reduced as again the sale of the Port property caused the need for more gear storage at the Approach.

**Scow Bay** – Continue to monitor area daily and maintenance as needed. Performed a 3 year lease compliance review of Joatman Marine Services. Staff is suggesting this become a permanent part of all Borough waterfront leases.

**Port Storage** – property permanently transferred to Brock Snider and Island Refrigeration.

**Scow Bay Turnaround Haul Out Project:** Rep. Peltola and Sen, Murkowski were successful in securing \$4.1 million for the project through a congressional spending bill. The funds have transferred through the State and the Denali Commission will hold the funds until the project begins. At the passing of Prop 4 at the last election the community voted to free up bonding capacity to loan another \$3.2 million for the utilities for the project. PEDC is working to secure the final roughly \$600,000 in estimated costs to complete the funding package to ready the bid for release. PND is in the process of securing needed permits and final design and we are hoping the project will be put out to bid by the end of 2025. Rep. Peltola came to Petersburg this summer to visit the site and is supportive of the next phase (s)

Staff has met with PIA to start the discussion of partnering as a sponsor for the proposed co funded USACE feasibility study that will be required to put in a harbor basin. We are working with the Boroughs lobbyist in DC to understand where this project is on their schedule.

Misc:

-Signage for no wake and harbor no wake zone were installed this spring. We believe the effort helped, but wake still continues to be a problem.

-waiting list continues to grow – 115

- Staff has been busy working with the Borough Attorney developing language for adding the proposed changes to the permanent moorage contracts concerning inactive vessels. We also worked through the Attorney and the Assembly to change Borough code to allow the Harbor to litigate damages occurred through the demolition of impounded vessels. This resulted in filing impound charges against two derelict vessels this fall.

- Staff has been working with Murph Engineering to design and permit a shed roof over the dock adjacent to the Harbor Office. Engineers estimates came in considerably higher than the approved budget, so the Assembly is considering upping the available amount through a supplemental budget process in order to open up the bid opportunity. Staff is wondering if it is worth re-visiting the Petro Building land trade as an alternative.

-Staff, PND, PEDC and Borough Manager met with American Cruiseline over the summer to talk about the future of mooring more American Constellation (283 ft.) sized vessels in PSG over summer months. The result from the visit was a proposal for consideration to the Borough and Mayor Jensen is interested in having a larger public conversation concerning future of tour ship facilities. As it currently stands they are on the schedule to visit Petersburg twice as many times (34) as they have in the past 3 years.

-2024 saw a busy summer. With the EC Phillips & Son's purchase of the Trident facility, staff feels that the local com fish deliveries are up with their expanded buying season. Transient vessel stops were consistent with last year and the number of winter-ing over vessels is up.