

**Water Front Safety Committee
February 16, 2019**

Minutes

Attendance:

Committee: Craig Brigham, Gordon Fuller, Bill Haverty, Jeffrey Wilt

Community Participants: Jim Facey, Steve Fien, Lisa & Dan Webster

The meeting was called to order at 3:00

Mission

The committee reviewed and reaffirmed its short and long term missions:

Short Term Mission Statement – Develop a plan to be implemented for 2019 summer to ease congestion of watercraft stored at the wharf and on the beach and shore of village owned land.

Long-Term Mission Statement – Develop a long-term plan to limit congestion of watercraft stored at the wharf and on the beach and shore of village owned land, so that the common areas can be used by boaters, beach goers, residents, and visitors alike in the safest manner possible with the fewest limits placed on access and availability.

Dinghy Definition

The committee then reviewed and reaffirmed recommendations on the definition of a dinghy:

- a. Maximum length at the wharf overnight -12 feet
- b. Maximum horse power at the wharf overnight – 9.9 HP
- c. Maximum length at the outfloat(s) – 12 feet
- d. Maximum Horsepower at the Outfloat(s) – 25 HP

Permitting Process & Cost

The committee next discussed its recommendation for a permitting process for those seeking a dinghy permit to include:

- Pay a seasonal dinghy fee (shore and wharf) of \$25 for residents and \$100 for non-residents.
- Review and sign an agreement that those receiving a permit understand and will abide by water front rules.
- Receive permit sticker to display on inner transom of dinghy
- Clearly identifying dinghy owner, with phone number, on inner transom

There was discussion on the proposed cost of permit. Specifically, should it be higher? Possibly \$250 per season or \$100 per week. The committee sees this as a long term discussion in conjunction with possible expansion of village waterfront infrastructure. All agreed that at some point this becomes an issue of supply and demand.

Resident Definition

The committee next discussed recommendations for the definition of a resident. The group reach a quick consensus that a resident should be defined as a legal resident or property owner in Northport.

Authority to Implement Permitting Process

The committee next discussed the process required to adopt recommendations associated with water front safety and congestion. Two options include an Ordinance(s) adopted by the Overseers or approval at the Village Annual Meeting. The committee will seek clarification at the February Overseers meeting.

If adoption of a dinghy “user fee” must be adopted at the Annual Meeting, the committee recommends adopting the permit process with no fee for the 2019 season.

Discussion then centered on the possibility of limiting the number of permits at some point in the future. The sense of the committee is that permitting for the 2019 season is to generate better awareness of the rules related to use of the boat float and to gather information on who owns dinghies utilizing the floats and beach. Meanwhile, the Harbormaster will work to determine the safe capacity of existing infrastructure.

Consideration of a New Float

The committee discussed the possibility of replacing the current outer float used to store NYC’s 420s with a new float possibly available for the 2019 season. NYC would reclaim the current 420 float which would be replaced by a float owned by the Village to be installed in the same location. The Town of Northport’s Saturday Cove float may be available. The Harbormaster is researching and will report at the March meeting information on the possibility, considering questions to include: Can town sell it as it was granted-funded? How much would it cost? How would acquisition be funded?

An additional option discussed was removing one of NYC’s two 420s from the current out float allowing more room to safely maneuver around the float. The addition of a swim ladder was also discussed and has been approved by the Overseers at their January meeting.

The committee agreed that further discussion on long term infrastructure solutions will be required— e.g. expand wharf and in float, etc.

Permitting Options for other Watercraft (Kayak, paddle-boards, Sunfish, etc.)

Should there be a permitting fee associated with other watercraft stored on North shore or other village property. The consensus of the committee is that all watercraft stored on village property should be permitted. The committee did not arrive at a recommendation on specific fees associated with other watercraft and will discuss at next meeting. There was a consensus that for the 2019 season permits should be required without cost. Questions requiring further discussion include: Enforcement-how and by whom? Managing watercraft owned by commercial entities? Communicating with renters?

Communication of Process

Next the committee discussed how to communicate recommended changes to the broader community. Ideas include: BaysideMaine.com, Letter/flyer in water/sewer invoices, notice to mooring holders, letter to rental agents. All agree additional signage will be required.

Next Meeting

March 23, 3:00 at 35 Main Street or by telephone

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30