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## Shellfish and Waterways Improvement Advisory Committee - February 14th, 2023

In attendance: A. Mathison, S. Phillips, C. Poosikian, P. Przygocki, J. Quigley, N. Sears, D. Slack. Absent: B. Amaru, M. Carroll, D. Edmunds, M. Mathison.

Approval of Minutes: December 2022 and January 2023 minutes approved. 6-0.

Public Comment: None.

### Waiting Lists for Slips at Rock Harbor

- Continued discussion on measures to maintain Rock Harbor as a working harbor, including possible policy changes. No votes were taken.
- S. Phillips gave a report on the February 6th Eastham Selectboard meeting regarding Eastham's Rock Harbor policies.
- After a productive discussion, it was established that there is a strong consensus among committee members to create two separate waitlists for slips in Rock Harbor for commercial and recreational vessels.
- Discussion included defining a 'commercial vessel', the possibility of dedicating a certain percentage of slips exclusively for commercial use, and supplementing vacant commercial slips with vessels from the recreational waitlist for a minimum of one year until an eligible commercial vessel applies, so as not to leave empty slips due to possible decreased commercial demand.
- The committee supported adopting Eastham's definition of 'commercial use vessels' with the addition of 'exclusively for commercial use' but declined to adopt other policies such as limiting one slip per household or implementing a residency restriction. Orleans' current dockage policy includes separate resident and non-resident fees, which the committee supports maintaining.
- It is anticipated that these policies will be drafted by the Harbormaster to be presented to the committee, recommended to the Select Board, and, if approved, will have a trial period of one year and then will be reviewed.

### Natural Resources/Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable Report, Nate Sears:

- Harbormaster Nate Sears reported on his time at the state police academy receiving training for harbormasters.
- The dredge project at Rock Harbor has received permission from both Eastham and Orleans Conservation Commissions. Dredge funding will be on the warrant for the Orleans Annual Town Meeting (ATM) in May 2023. If the funding is secured, dredging will begin in Fall 2023. Some difficulties with that timeline include removing all boats, docks, and pilings from the harbor in early October as well as potentially facing ecological restrictions with terrapin turtles and right whales.
- The Rock Harbor fuel tank replacement will cost approximately \$800k, including roughly \$30k in permitting, but the town has been awarded a \$600k CZM grant toward the installation of above ground fuel tanks and the removal of the existing below ground tanks.

- While Nate was hoping to time the commercial bulkhead project with dredging and fuel tank removal at the harbor, it is necessary to push the project out one year in order to secure funding and proper permitting and to give the town the best chance to be done at an appropriate time for the harbor to operate as normal.
- Nate reported that the Mill Pond bulkhead project will start no later than April 1st and other stormwater remediation projects around town are on track to begin this winter.
- Nate will present on the future use of the residents' side of the Oversand Vehicle (OSV) program at the selectboard meeting tomorrow, Wednesday March 15th.

Selectboard Liaison Report Mark Mathison:

- Through N. Sears, selectboard representative Mark Mathison reported that the Nauset Beach management agreement was adopted and signed by both Chatham and Orleans officials.
- The Selectboard appointed Larry Spaulding and Charlie Carlton to the National Seashore Advisory Committee.

Announcements/Topics for Future Meetings:

- D. Slack shared a document by Sandy Macfarlane "The Evolution of a Municipal Quahog" to be distributed to members and shared with the town.
- D. Slack also distributed books by Dr. Belding about research on shellfish biology.
- S. Phillips announced the next Statewide Shellfish Advisory Panel will be held Thursday, March 2nd.

Motion to adjourn by C. Poosikian, second by A. Mathison at 7:39pm.

Submitted by Alexis Mathison on March 13th, 2023.

Approved on \*\*.