

Kennebunk River Committee
Meeting Minutes – August 4, 2020
Meeting held using COVID guidelines at
Town Hall.

Members present: Rick Roberts, Jack Jensen, Reinier Nieuwkerk, Rich Woodman, Bob Danzilo, Mark Sutton, HM Jim Black
Absent: Charlie Barker, Susan Inoue

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Rick Roberts

Old business

- None

New business

- 47 Ocean Ave. Kennebunkport Bulkhead repairs

On behalf of Robert Williamson, Atlantic Environmental sent the Committee a packet regarding the repairs of an existing bulkhead. The Committee reviewed the proposal and unanimously approved it. Chair Rick Roberts will send a letter to Atlantic Environmental stating their approval.

- Mooring Field Assignments

The Committee discussed refining the rules for mooring field assignments. Discussed was a mooring holder must have 51% ownership in the vessel registered with the mooring, loaning out moorings when a mooring holder leaves the river for a short period, the mooring could be utilized by other boats after the approval of the Harbormaster.

- Harbormaster Report

Harbormaster Black reported the Patrol boat is operating well but the work boat is in disrepair and should be replaced. The Committee asked HM Black to find suitable used vessels that could replace the work boat. Some members of the Committee said they would keep an eye out for such a vessel. HM Black reports the Mooring barge needs maintenance on the hydraulics.

HM Black reports the USACE is wrapping up their environmental and design for rebuilding the jetty. HM Black also reports that swimming and diving continue off the pier at Gov't Wharf. HM Black requested additional signage from the town but was declined. Committee member Knoep Nieuwkerk stated the kids jumping off the pier are very observant and stay clear of the pier when any boats are entering or leaving the pier.

HM Black reports a request had been made to place cameras at Gov't Wharf. HM Black stated he will scope this out and prepare a recommendation for the 2021 budget cycle. Committee member Rich Woodman asked HM Black why he suggested and recommended the cameras. HM Black said he did neither. Mr. Woodman read to HM Black the email HM Black sent stating the need for the video surveillance at Gov't Wharf. HM Black became clearly agitated and asked the Committee its thoughts on this issue. After some discussion

the Committee did not support this proposal. Mr. Woodman asked HM Black why the Mooring software has yet to be fully functioning and not accessible via the Town websites. HM Black said he will work towards getting this completed. Chair Rick Roberts informed HM Black that this software was approved in March 2018 and should have been up and running long ago. Chair Rick Roberts asked HM Black about the mooring barge and the repair needs. HM Black stated the mooring barge will be hauled by the towns to a Kennebunk Town facility for maintenance. Mr. Woodman asked why HM Black thought it was necessary to have the mooring barge hauled to a town facility and not repaired at Arundel Wharf where it has been hauled out for the winter. The cost and time put on both towns is totally unnecessary. Mr. Woodman also asked why the Committee wasn't consulted. HM Black said "That's what they (the towns) want to do". Mr. Woodman said the Harbormaster answers to the River Committee and not Sgt. Eaton for matters on the river. HM Black again was clearly agitated. Chair Rick Roberts asked HM Black to obtain estimates from marine mechanics and present them to the Committee and to hold off on having the barge moved.

Addendum: HM Black was asked about an incident in which HM Black responded to a boat taking on water in the river. Witnesses observed HM Black leaving the HM boat slip blindly and rapidly into the river and nearly collided with a vessel coming up the river. The up river vessel operator had to violently throw his engine into reverse to avoid a collision. Witnesses said HM Black continued down the river at excessive speed causing large wakes that could have led to docks/boats damage and injuries to people on the docks. When asked why HM Black responded in such manner, he did not have an answer. Mr. Woodman suggested that HM Black used poor judgement in his response to the call and HM Black admitted he had.

- No other Business - Vote to adjourn at 7:50 P.M.

- Next meeting: September 15, 2020 /7:00 PM / Kennebunk Town Hall.