

Village of Northport
Waterfront Committee
Regular Meeting via ZOOM
February 16, 2021 at 1 PM

Call to Order/ Roll Call: Members present: Cook, Harper, Gremel

Public present: Steve Wetherbee, Joe Defors

Public Comment: Joe Defors commented on the outdated Wait Lists for the G. Marsten Dame Marina seasonal slips stating it was difficult is to determine where he (or any other boater) is on the list. He reported talking to the former Harbormaster about the fact that he was listed on the wrong Wait List and requested that that be corrected. He was assured that that error was fixed. In checking this year, he found that was not the case. Mr. Defors requested that the Wait List be corrected and updated. He also suggested an annual fee to be on the list to discourage those who are no longer interested in securing a slip.

The purpose of today's meeting is to discuss Harbormaster questions and concerns for which he would like our input.

Discussion/Action Items:

1. Marina update from Chris Holton: The Dock House has been elevated and the work crew is waiting for a recommendation from Engineer Pat Machin on how he wants the Dock House supported on the new iron. Oscar Larson is working on the fuel lines. The current water level is down 18-22" from it's high point. The water level is expected to rise again beginning in March through July. The launch ramp has been left in place for the construction crew to use and to leave more room in the parking lot.
2. Bill Rosemurgy's first question involves the status of the GEM utility vehicle. There is a problem with the GEM maintaining an adequate charge. Mr. Wetherbee investigated and found that the battery bank had sulfated and that the charging system is poorly designed leading to the sulfate problem. He recommends replacing the batteries and installing an appropriate

charging system. Mr. Harper suggests looking into Lithium Ion batteries. The cost of these repairs will be considerably less than purchasing a new unit.

3. Mr. Rosemurgy asked for a clarification of “Zodiac Row.” This is an area at the west end of runway “B” that was installed at boater’s expense by said boaters for the purpose of mooring their Zodiacs. It is administered by the same said boaters and is not something that the Harbormaster has to be involved with.
4. Bill asked for clarification on how reservations have been handled on the East Wall which is not part of the DNR reservation system. It was stated by Mr. Harper that the East Wall could be added to the DNR system making it easier to appropriately charge the bigger boats that come in and also would allow those boats to make their reservations through the DNR. The Harbormaster should be the one to decide what should and will happen on the East Wall.
5. Bill asked about the availability of a suggestion box and was promised that it would be available in place for the beginning of the new season.
6. Bill suggests eliminating using MarinaWare since we really don’t need it and it costs money. The Committee agrees.
7. Mr. Rosemurgy also asks about our being designated a “Clean Marina”. He received a bill for \$600 to renew our certification. We do all the things that make us a clean marina anyway. Do we need to pay \$600 to an organization so that we can say we are “Clean”? Bill suggests we purchase fuel soak pads and drop the formal “Clean Marina” program. The Committee agrees that we should drop the program and will recommend purchasing a fuel boom to be kept in place at the marina (cost is less than \$200).
8. Bill sought clarification about the “Shopper’s Dock” (E Dock) name and use. This dock has been referred to as the Shopper’s Dock, slips #101 through #114, and its intent was to provide a free 2 hour slip to those folks stopping to eat or shop in the Village. Over time some of the slips on E Dock have been used for seasonal boaters. Mr. Rosemurgy wants to move those seasonals back into the main marina and reserve E Dock for daytime shoppers and overflow transients. This would happen the summer of 2022.

9. Slip C 24 had a dock box that was damaged. What is the status? Chris Holton said the owners were gone for several weeks. DPW was made aware of the damage several weeks after the damage was done. On inspection it was found to have a damaged hinge which was then replaced. Apparently, a boat that was moored there was not secured properly, and the bow of the boat damaged the box. The owner of the box claims that someone told him he was going to get a new box. His "old" box was repaired and is totally functional and weatherproof. Bill will investigate and work toward a settlement.
10. Seasonal slip policy: Who is eligible to use the leased slip besides the slip owner? Slips now are leased in the name of the boat owner (in the past the slip was in the boat's name which caused problems when the owner got a new boat). It should be permissible for family members to share a slip. It will not be permissible for a person to lease a slip and then rent it out as a money-making venture. Circumventing the Wait List is not permissible.
11. The Wait Lists are cumbersome and have people on them that have no intention of using a slip. The lists need updating (which has been tried unsuccessfully several times in the last few years). Mr. Rosemurgy has been working to clean up the lists. He suggests charging an annual wait list fee of \$25 to weed out those who don't really have any interest anymore in leasing a slip, thus paring the list down to only those who are sincerely wanting to lease a slip. The question was raised if one person can lease more than one slip. Another question dealt with the person at the top of the list who doesn't have a boat when his name comes up. That person has a year to obtain a boat or he can take a pass for 1 year keeping his name at the top. At the end of that year he would move to the bottom of the list if he still has no watercraft unless he wants to take the slip and pay for it. The marina can then rent that slip for transients until the boat owner has his boat.

A motion was made by Mr. Harper, supported by Mr. Cook to recommend to the Council a \$25 annual fee to be on each wait list.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas (3) Nays (0) Motion carried.

12. Bill has put together a job description for Dock Hands. The question was raised about how dock hands will be paid, will they have junior/senior rankings as has occurred in the past. It was suggested that dock hands

wages should be reduced from what they have been the last few years and the rate of pay not be based on seniority. The Harbormaster should have the power to hire and establish the dock hand wages. Keep in mind that dock hands also earn money in the form of tips. Bill is interested in finding a "senior, retired" person for part-time work.

13. Bill is looking into and getting quotes for marina buoys.

14. Bill has started a Marina Facebook page, "Northport Marina."

15. Bill has had a good conversation with the individual who owns the AirB&B and discussed fees, garbage removal and pump outs among other things.

16. Mr. Cook spoke about training that was done by the Fire Department with respect to CPR and defibrillator use and fire extinguisher use. That training may not happen again this year due to the COVID-19 virus.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cook and supported by Mr. Harper.

Roll Call vote: Yeas (3) Nays (0) Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 PM.