

River Committee Meeting July 18, 2023

In Attendance: Jamie Houtz, Bob Danzilo, Justin Troiano, Susan Inuoue, David Pratt. Leanne Travers, Deanna Innis, Shiloh Schulte

6:30 Meeting Commences

Bob Danzilo opens meeting with a proposal from Laurie and Stan for a new kayak dock for condos next to Arundel wharf. This would be for condo residents and guests only. Photos were displayed and reviewed by all. Bob asked for a motion to accept, it was seconded and all committee members agree. Proposal accepted

Gooch's Creek Bridge :

Bob passes photo of current signage on bridge, which is severely faded. Jamie Houtz explained that new signage has been ordered and will be installed as soon as it arrives

Parking/issue with launch in Seagrass neighborhood

Susan brings up signage in the area for the public dock/ launch in the Seagrass neighborhood which has been continuously taken down over the last several years each time a new one has been put up. All members speculate it is the residents of the Seagrass neighborhood taking down the signs. Bob says there are four public parking spots, Jaimie Houtz explains that you must go to the police department and get a permit to park in these public spots, Susan explains that the local residents call the police if anyone parks in these spots and will have them arrested. Shiloh Schulte ask how is this possible. Jaimie Houtz talks about Cleaves Cove is the same issue. Shiloh Schulte says this is an issue and needs to be enforced, will bring it up with the police and pursue this personally. All members discuss other places to launch. All members discuss this in more detail and Jaimie explains how the parking situation works and how it differs from a beach pass, they only allow four parking permits and they have a time limit but not sure how long.

Speed enforcement/ Signage up river past the bridge:

Bob calls upon a woman in the back of the room who represent a residential group from last summer concerned about erosion and young people operating boat upriver at unsafe speeds. S he asks what is happening with enforcement and Signage of speed limits up river. Jamie

Houtz explains plans are on hold as he has had issues with getting a new boat. Jamie had budget to get a new boat had ordered a new one. Has found a boat to borrow, paid for a slip at performance marine, the borrowed boats engine broke. Explains in detail what broke and why they don't have a new one. It should be looked at next Wednesday. Jamie then explains that two buoys will be placed at Lanagan bridge, then two more have been ordered to be placed up river. Jamie explains that at this time there is no way to do this work as they has no transportation up river. The woman asks about plans that were proposed last year to hire someone to enforce speed limits up the river, Jamie explains that without a boat there is no need to hire someone. Justin Troiano asks what the issue is that we are talking about. Jamie Houtz explains that speed limits need to be put in place which is typically about 5MPH but title 38 states that a boat must not exceed "headway speed" Bob Danzilo explains the issue in question: people had been speeding and disturbing residents upriver. The woman asks about signage, Jamie explains that any town official cannot put signs on private property but residents can put up whatever they want. Jamie asks her to send him an email and he will give details on what the sign should say/ font etc.. The woman asks if signs are going up on the bridge Jamie says yes and that signs are going up on the jetty, that government wharf will get signs, and when the boat is ready buoys will be installed.

Barge:

Bob Danzilo begins discussion of Barge. Bob Williamson built and sold/ donated a small mooring barge to the river. Jamie Houtz describes details of barge, it has a \$13,000 value, but needs repairs and maintenance no record exists. Shiloh Schulte asks what the cost benefit is to having this barge and if its worth outsourcing to a third party. Jamie Houtz explains that Pepperell Cove, our current mooring company, will only come to town for a minimum of 35 moorings. If anything happens to a mooring Jamie Houtz feels it is important to be able to help. Jamie explains system of renting moorings from the town and harbor master manages both commercial and residential moorings. Susan Inuoue asks what the cost to bring the barge up to working order would be, Jamie houtz explains its about \$10,000 to repair and its questionable if this would fully cover it The town mechanic is on vacation and Jamie will get a full quote when he returns. Jamie Houtz questions the role of the harbor master and how much they should be involved in managing the moorings and if this is what they should be doing. Jamie says it is very nice to be able to move moorings if need be, but

reminds us he is not legally able to inspect them. Shiloh asks what happens if he moves a mooring and that mooring ends up damaged. Jamie explains that town lawyers would get involved and that's why there is so much liability insurance on the barge itself. Barge cannot be hauled out easily, Jamie is doing this as a service to the river but does not want to be taking business away from a company in town that would be willing to do this and take the responsibility away from the town. At the moment there is no one to offer this service and he is the only show in town.

Old Harbor Master RIB:

Jamie Houtz says the old boat was listed on gov docs, then the Kennebunk Fire department was looking at getting a boat and they were interested then after two months of discussion they were not interested now been. Bob Danzilo asks the current condition of the boat, Jamie explains it is not in great condition. Whatever money this boat sells for will go back into the budget to purchase the new upriver boat discussed earlier.

Picnic Mooring:

Mooring number 28 is owned by the town and is located in front of Gooch's creek. Jamie Houtz explains that many charter fisherman or locals will fish the incoming our outgoing tides at Gooch's Creek. Jamie proposes to make this mooring a first come first serve "Picnic Mooring". It will be identified as a public mooring, painted a certain color, on the town website, etc. Bob asks for a motion to pass, it is seconded and all members vote to pass the change to a public mooring. Jamie Houtz explains there are three current mooring holders who have not paid their dues, Jamie will update up in August if they plan to keep their moorings.

Dredging:

Bob Danzilo explains that Susan Collins has put an application through to Washington to get \$5.1million for a dredge of the Kennebunk river. Bob explains that the application has been requested yet to be approved, Bob has been in correspondence with Pam Buck, head of Susan Collins office in Biddeford. She confirms the request has been received by Washington and will be able to offer an update by next month as it is being passed up the chain.

Leanne Travers asks if this is connected at all to the plans by AYC, River Club, Yachtsman, Kennebunkportport Marina to dredge their properties. Bob Danzilo says we must inform these companies that this dredge may happen and may cover some of what they are planning on doing. Leanne

Travers asks what the 5.1million will actually cover. We don't have a solid answer but as to other rivers in the area we have far more substantial funds. Leanne Travers asks what the focus of the dredge should be and how helpful it will be. Jamie Houtz explains that anything past Doan's Wharf would not be done by the army corps as its not considered a navigable channel. We discuss how the dredge works and the ecological process of dumping the dredge.

We discuss low sections of the river before the last dredge and where its filling in now. Leanne Travers asks if private companies go ahead with their own dredging who oversees the process and what criteria needs to be met. Jamie Houtz explains that it will come to the river committee to approve at some point. Jamie also explains that all four companies have hired the same firm to acquire permits for their future dredging project.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm