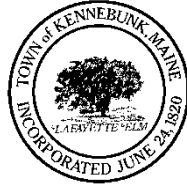


Town of Kennebunk, Maine



Kennebunk River Committee

September 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Bob Danzilo, Susan Inuoue, Knoepe Nieuwkerk, David Pratt, Justin Troiano, Deanna Enis, Leanne Travers, Jamie Houtz

Guests: Lori McGrath, Susan Graesser

6:30PM Meeting Commences

Update on HM Vessels:

Discussed keeping and maintaining the Mooring Barge built by Bob Williamson and using it when needed as a complement to the Mooring service we use. This would mean spending the money to keep it running and functional. Jamie Houtz also reported on what has been done to repair and upgrade said barge and what needs to be done in the future including a new outboard for power. Whether the barge will remain in the water for the winter has not been decided, pending discussion with Bob Williamson.

A motion to accept keeping and maintaining the barge was seconded, and all agreed

Upriver Signage

A report by our Harbormaster stated that the Upriver Skiff needed to patrol the upper river was functional now, with a new carburetor and will be used before winter to remove the buoys. Signage that has been created and installed upriver

to warn boaters of excessive speeding is in place and there were several representatives of the river properties who came to the meeting to thank us for the signage and effort.

Update from Army Corp Dredging

At this time, there is nothing to report from Washington. The bill is with the Appropriations Committee and is still waiting approval.

Progress on Government Wharf Camera

Harbormaster reported that most all the wiring has been done. There will be four cameras to be installed starting next Monday 9/25.

The cameras will show the mouth of the river and then an upriver view, the parking lot and the side of the building. It will be used as webcams and has a storage ability of 30 days. Mr. Nieuwerk asked about the ability of the camera to capture speeding and wakes in the river. Jamie responded by telling us that the image should give us enough pixels to be able to capture decent enough detail to be able to identify boats.

Review of Mooring Classifications

Bob Danzilo suggested that since that there are new people on the Committee, it would be a good idea to familiarize everyone with the different mooring classifications in our River. Bob asked Jamie Houtz to go over these classifications.

- Commercial Fishing would include lobstering, tuna fishing, gill netting, purse seining and drag netting. Knoepe Nieuwerk gave us a description of the different techniques used in these different fishing operations. He also mentioned that different kinds of fishing require different uses of the government wharf facilities.
- Recreational
- Transient
- Picnic

Discussion of Fore and Aft Docking In River

A discussion was begun describing what a fore and aft dock arrangement would be in the river, with several mooring blocks anchoring it in place. Cost was discussed and how it would be secured. Knoepe thought that this kind of dock would require at least four blocks to stabilize the dock and depending on how long the dock was, additional blocks could be used to secure the middle. We also discussed what maintenance would be required to maintain this arrangement. This will be an ongoing discussion and is going to take research to find out how this would be done and maintained.

It was decided to get in touch with some towns who have also doing this arrangement and see what the details are of this plan. Jamie said that he would have more data by next meeting.

Excise Tax Issue

Bob Danzilo passed around the excise tax page from the Eliot Town website as a template for what we can do here in the Kennebunks.

We also wanted to figure out where the money should go. We would be bringing additional revenue into the towns but we should be able to allot a percentage of these fees into a river specific kind of account for the use of the Harbormaster and the River Committee for expenses related to the maintenance and health of the River. A spirited discussion was had as to inform and enforce this excise tax. It was decided that the website would be a good start and then looking to the marinas to help notifying their customers that this is required.

As a committee, we agreed to advise as to where the funds would be directed before we put any plan in place to collect the tax.

Increase In Mooring Registration

Jamie Houtz mentioned that several people have told him that we do not charge enough for moorings in our town. He then passed around the mooring fess that other towns pay and we are right there where we should be. We are comparable to Portland.

It was decided that there should be no increase in mooring fees at this time.

Miscellaneous

Discussion of responsibility of owners for fallen trees into the river.

Leanne Travers brought up the idea of having a university do a study about this calving and tree problem on the river. Also, that the planning board are going to be discussing the Wedding House doing events and what the impact would be on the river behind the location. The River Committee could be involved in this discussion.

Lori McGrath and Susan Graesser wanted to thank Jamie and the Harbormaster for the buoys and the new signs upriver to try and mitigate the speeding and erosion upriver.

Meeting Adjourned 7:40pm