

Kennebunk River Committee meeting minutes

Meeting Date: September 20, 2022

Members present:

- Richard Woodman
- Susan Inoue
- Mark Sutton

Also present: Harbormaster (“HM”) Jamie Houtz and Christopher Robinson

Kennebunk River landowners’ concerns regarding boat speed

1. A few of the Kennebunk River property owners attended this meeting for an update on the “speeding boats” issue that has been discussed in the last few years and more-so recently in earnest.

To summarize:

- The owners spoke of boats that were exceeding the no wake/5 MPH speed limit on the river.
- One major issue was safety-related. The speeding boats are a potential danger to kayakers and stand-up paddle boarders in the river; plus
- The owners felt that the speeding boats were largely contributing to the erosion of the river banks on their properties.
- The owners would like more signs to be installed along the river, such as “no-wake,” and “slow down.”
- The owners would also like Harbormaster Houtz to have an increased patrol presence on that end of the river.

This meeting:

- The neighbors and Harbormaster Houtz discussed hiring a junior/assistant Harbormaster to assist in patrolling the neighbors’ upriver area.
- HM Houtz discussed that his budget includes enough money for a few 5 MPH signs to notify boaters of the speed limit. He would also try to purchase more, budget allowing.
- HM Houtz did mention the current Harbormaster vessel, and its advanced age and deteriorating condition. He feels that it should be replaced.

Dredging of the Kennebunk River

1. The River Committee discussed (once again) the ongoing need for dredging. There are areas of the channel that are in substantial need. Besides being a navigational need/problem, this shallow water issue could become a safety hazard for resident and transient vessels.

Harbormaster report

1. Harbormaster Houtz discussed mooring inspections and suggested a two-year cycle for inspections.
2. The season is winding down and went smoothly.