

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

**MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2013
SQUALICUM HARBOR OFFICE
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Peter Border
Bill Douglas
Elizabeth Kilanowski
Jim Kyle
Ian Puchlik
Jerry Writer
Jim Young

Committee Members Absent:

Port Representatives Present:

Dan Stahl
Chris Tibbe
Andy Peterson
Pam Taft

Committee Members Excused:

Ron Kleinknecht
Gene Knutson
Brian Pemberton
Doug Sterrett

Visitors/Guests:

Fred Wicknick
Dan Robbins
Bert Rubash

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

September 10, 2013 Minutes

The September 10, 2013 minutes were approved unanimously. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Peter Border and seconded by Elizabeth Kilanowski.

Public Comment

Fred Wicknick introduced himself as spokesperson for one of the Multiparty boathouses at Squalicum Harbor (D East). Fred first thanked the MAC for all of their help and communication informing the boathouse owners of progress at the harbor regarding regulatory requirements. Fred said that he had two comments for the MAC to consider.

His first comment related to timeline for the Multiparty boathouses to form an organization as required by the Port's Rules and Regulations (adopted April 16, 2013). Fred suggested that this timeline was too short - that although in favor of the requirements his boathouse would have a hard time meeting the January 15th 2014 deadline. The D East group was making progress but he felt that they would not be able to meet the deadline. As an example of the challenges his boathouse was facing, he mentioned that one of their twelve owners was in an estate for the late Dean Reece. This will add complications in getting unanimous approval. Fred thought that an additional six months would be appropriate and that he did not expect that the City requirements for retro-fitting safety would need any parallel extensions to the one just requested.

Fred's second request dealt with the term of their moorage agreement. Once the boathouse organization was formed and approved he thought it was likely that they would ask for some kind of longer agreement than the current month to month moorage agreement bound with all boathouses in the harbor. This would be needed in order for them to get some kind of a bank loan to pay for the planned sprinkler improvements to their structure.

There was a significant amount of amiable discussions back and forth between Fred Wicknick and the MAC regarding his two requests. And although sympathetic to his request for a timeline extension there were several voices that raised a caution in extending the timeline when the deadline was still several months away (in mid-January). An additional concern in extending the timeline for D East was the message that this extension would send to the other groups that are not nearly as organized and proactive as the D East boathouse. As this discussion began to wind down, Chairman Young suggested that Dan skip down the agenda to item six (Update on Multiparty Boathouses).

Dan Stahl then reviewed with the MAC the informational Open House the Port held with the multiparty boathouse owners two weeks prior on September 24th 2013. The large packet of information developed by Port staff and consultants had been e-mailed to MAC members ahead of time. Dan reviewed each of seven requirements. Finishing the presentation on the update there was no further dialog regarding Mr. Wicknick's request.

Dan then moved the discussion to the port insurance requirement for the Multiparty boathouses. Dan recounted to the MAC, when they made their recommendation for updates to the rules and regulations in March of this past year that Ken Culver had asked that the insurance requirement for multi party boathouses be removed until further research could be done. Dan discussed with the MAC the investigation that staff has done over the summer talking with a number of local insurance providers as well as other marinas as well as the Port's own insurance carrier. Staff feels that the 5 million dollar number that was in draft in March is still the appropriate number.

Staff will plan to would bring this forward to the MAC for a recommendation in November and would reach out to Ken Culver for further discussion.

Dockside Feedback

Elizabeth Kilanowski asked again about the light sequencing for the comfort station on Gate 3. Chris Tibbe responded by explaining that there was a light sensor switch that needed replacement and that replacement was in process.

Jim Kyle said that he had several comments.

- Recent theft in Blaine from fisherman Gary Dunster. Cameras were discussed as a potential deterrent but it was acknowledged that the cameras have not been effective in other port facilities in eliminating thefts.
- Blaine – Sigurdson Avenue.
- Gate 5 in Squalicum Harbor – D float. Jim said that an old issue from years past had been brought to his attention regarding float damage. Chris Tibbe responded that he would reach out to the individuals involved in that incident for further discussion.

Vancouver Boat Show

Andy provided an update that the Port would be attending the Vancouver Boat Show this year in January. Multiple departments would participate, Marinas, Real Estate and Economic Development. The Port has a number of business ties north of the border and we see this as a positive connection for not only business and trade but also as part of our Marina community.

DNR has Proposed Puget Sound no Discharge Zone.

Chris Tibbe gave an update to the MAC regarding the State Public Land Commissioner Peter Goldmark's recent initiative for a federal No Discharge Zone in all of Puget Sound. Chris reminded the MAC that the Port of Bellingham is already a no discharge zone. A lively discussion ensued asking questions about who would enforce such a measure. Were both gray and black water included? Chris talked about examples in other harbors that have been effective. Chris recounted that the Port has 16 pump outs at Blaine and Squalicum Harbor. Elizabeth Kilanowski spoke at length about some of her concerns about boaters being portrayed as the overriding problem for environmental issues in Puget Sound. When in fact there are a large number of issues that have an impact on water quality in the sound. After further discussions it was agreed that the Harbormasters would track this issue and keep the MAC informed as this issue moves forward in Olympia.

Recent Security Incidences

Chris Tibbe discussed with the MAC a number of incidents that he has seen in Squalicum Harbor. There has been a seasonal increase this summer and fall? The main target of the thefts has been copper used in short power cords. There has been an increase in the amount of homeless vagrants sleeping in the laundry rooms as well a number of electronics thefts. Chris encouraged the MAC members to talk with their friends and associates to maintain vigilance in the harbor and that if they see anything that is out of the ordinary please notify the harbor office at once.

Staff – General Updates

Chris talked about gate code changes. Andy Peterson talked about the fire on a 42' Grand Banks this past week and we handed out the fall marina safety flier. Andy Peterson and Chris Tibbe said that this would be distributed to all of the ports boating users in Blaine, Squalicum and Fairhaven. Additional copies of this flyer would be available at the counter in both harbors.

Andy and Chris attempted to rescue a sinking vessel on the Squalicum breakwater last week, this was a Tanzer 22.

Chris gave an update on Gate 12 parking.

With there being no more further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.