

# PORT OF BELLINGHAM

**MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014  
SQUALICUM HARBOR OFFICE  
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

## **Minutes**

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### **Committee Members Present:**

Peter Border  
Elizabeth Kilanowski  
Brian Pemberton  
Ian Puchlik  
Jim Young  
Jim Kyle  
Doug Sterrett

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Terry Borneman  
Jerry Writer

### **Port Representatives Present:**

Andy Peterson  
Chris Tibbe  
Pam Taft  
Dan Stahl

### **Committee Members Excused:**

Ron Kleinknecht  
Bill Douglas

### **Visitors/Guests:**

Bellingham Fire Department  
Milan Slipcevic  
Doug Karlberg  
Burt Rubash

Zed Blue  
Dan Robbins  
Bob Diehl  
Fred Wicknick

## **Roll Call**

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

Bellingham Fire Department Chief, Bill Newbold and Captain Eric Kohler gave a power point presentation (attachment 1 to these minutes) to the MAC regarding the new Fire Boat for the City of Bellingham. Captain Eric Kohler gave a recap of the past operation of the Fire Belle and went through a review of the selection process that the fire department is using to select a new vessel, including tours of other fire departments which have fire boats and tours of manufacturers of fire boats. The Fire Department is looking to have this vessel have additional pumping capacity and be a faster response vessel among other things. After the presentation there was a number of questions and answers from the MAC, after which Doug Karlberg, a local commercial fisherman was given the floor. Doug has been an outspoken critic of the Fire Department's selection process. Doug and Bill Newbold had an exchange of ideas regarding the best way for the Fire Boat to be selected and constructed. At the end of this dialog Chief Newbold committed to the MAC that he would keep them apprised as to future updates. The hope is that the new Fire Boat would be on station in Bellingham a year from this summer.

### **March 11 Minutes**

The March 11 minutes were approved unanimously. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Peter Border and seconded by Jim Young.

### **Public Comment**

Bob Diehl: Bob commented that he is frustrated at how dinghy racks are administered at Squalicum Harbor. Bob moors his vessel on D West and complains that there is a very haphazard arrangement in how the dinghy racks are used. Many of the vessels in the racks are of poor repair and are not identified to a slip owner in the harbor. This is very frustrating to him and he asked that the system be re-evaluated. Discussion ensued from the MAC. It was generally agreed that this would be an item to be looked at from both harbors. It was generally agreed that having some sort of a charge for this service would go a long way toward culling out dinghies that are not being used. Chris Tibbe said that he would review this matter and that he would bring options back to the MAC at a future meeting.

Zed Blue: Zed is a commercial fisherman who lives in Bellingham but currently moors his vessel the "Robin Blue" in Westport, Washington. Zed came to testify to the MAC that he would really prefer to moor his vessel at Squalicum Harbor but does not, due primarily, to the lack of available web locker facilities. A broad discussion ensued between MAC members and guests. Several issues were identified for future consideration. The first of these was for the Port Staff to be more vigilant in requiring compliance with the active commercial fishermen in keeping only fishing gear in their lockers. Numerous examples were cited of non-fishing gear being stored in lockers. For instance cars, cord wood, kitchen cabinets etc. All agreed that it was a shame to be wasting this valuable space for non-fishing items when active commercial fishermen are on the wait list for such lockers. There was also discussion about adding new capacity to the web locker inventory. This was discussed in terms of perhaps leasing ground to a number of fishermen that could put up temporary structures. This might be a cost effective way to quickly add new capacity. The last suggestion was to allow people on the wait list to by- pass

others that already have web lockers. It was thought that this would encourage people in Zed's position to bring their vessels to Squalicum Harbor.

Fred Wicknick: Fred is an owner in a multi-party boathouse (MPBH) at Squalicum Harbor. Fred wanted to give the MAC an update on how the multi-party boathouses are striving to get into compliance with the Port rules and regulations and appreciated the reprieve in being given additional time through the 15<sup>th</sup> of July to get in compliance. Fred also asked questions about pricing for boathouse rates and asked the pending expense for fire improvements at Gate 3 be borne by the Marina as a whole and not put on the shoulders of the multi-party boathouses. Lastly Fred asked if the Port would be interested in granting the multiparty boathouses a lease term beyond the current month to month agreement. Dan Stahl suggested that this should not be a problem, once the multiparty boathouses formed an organization. Fred thanked the MAC and the staff for their working with the multiparty boathouses. He especially thanked the staff for being in touch via the stream of letters and meetings with boathouse owners. This is very much appreciated.

### **Dock Side Feedback**

Andy Peterson offered up an apology to Marina Customers for some recent discrepancies in statements issued by the Port of Bellingham to moorage customers. The situation that caused the inaccurate statements has been rectified and staff assured marina tenants that they would do everything in their power to ensure that this does not happen again.

Elizabeth Kilanowski talked with Chris Tibbe about additional "Pick up After Your Pets" signs for the dock.

Ian Puchlik requested that Port security guards be asked to do some light cleaning on their patrols and asked that they increase their vigilance regarding gear on individual's vessels that was in distress. Examples were given of sails blowing in the wind and canvas tops coming off. It was noted by the staff that vessel owners are encouraged to batten down the hatches for the winter time and often times when they don't there is not much that staff or security can do.

Jim Young commented appreciating that the ladders are being installed and asked that a newsletter article be put in to explain to people as to how to retract these if they are inadvertently deployed.

### **2014 Moorage Model Review**

Dan and Pam reviewed the Power Point presentation (attached #2) that was given to the Port Commission a week earlier. During the presentation there was much Q & A back and forth between the MAC guests and the staff. After the presentation was over, Brian Pemberton discussed with the MAC the idea of having a sub-committee work on the Moorage Model Review. It was suggested that Jim Young and Jim Kyle participate on this sub-committee that would be open to all MAC members. Dan Stahl said that he would ensure that all MAC

members were aware of meetings and could attend if they so desired. The MAC sub-committee was focused primarily on the capital reserve issue as it relates to the Moorage Model. There was also significant discussion amongst the MAC staff and guests about how to best define a “competitive rate” for the active commercial fishing fleet.

### **Gate 3 Fire Line Update**

Dan and Chris gave an update that the current design is 90% finished. Port engineers are working very closely with the Bellingham Fire Department so that permitting for this improvement should go very quickly, once a formal submittal is given to the fire department. We are currently on schedule for this project. It should be out to bid on May 12<sup>th</sup> and is scheduled to go to the Port Commission for award on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dan reviewed the budget for these two projects with the stand pipe budgeted at \$ 370,000 and the pressure line currently budgeted at \$556,000. Elizabeth Kilanowski asked about the allocation of these funds to different users. Dan mentioned he would try and have a work up for this at the May MAC meeting.

### **Staff Updates**

Andy Peterson gave an update on Blaine Moorage Association #2. One of the two multi-party boathouses in Blaine is now completely in compliance with Port regulations. Andy was lauded for his encouragement in getting this accomplished.

Chris gave an update on the work on the inner harbor. Razz Construction is currently ahead of schedule and doing a great job and he thanked the boaters for having to move their vessels to accomodate the construction.

With there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.