

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

**MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015
HARBOR CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Elizabeth Kilanowski
Jerry Writer
Jim Young
Brian Pemberton
Paul Burrill
Ian Puchlik
Byron Richards
Peter Border
Doug Sterrett

Committee Members Absent:

Port Representatives Present:

Andy Peterson
Pam Taft
Dan Stahl

Committee Members Excused:

Bill Douglas
Jim Kyle

Visitors/Guests:

Commissioner Jorgensen
Commissioner Robbins
Commissioner McAuley
Julie Winkler
Bert Rubash
Susan Plummer
Doug Karlberg

Roll Call

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

Minutes

Peter Border noted a small discrepancy in the September 22, 2015 minutes which was corrected. Doug Sterrett made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, which was seconded by Jerry Writer and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Susan Plummer, a liveaboard in Squalicum Harbor, expressed concern over what appeared to be Merchant Leaseholder customers practicing docking their chartered vessels in other people's slips and voicing a concern that there could be damage resulting in their practice runs. Brian Pemberton, speaking as a Merchant Leaseholder, agreed that this was not an acceptable practice and will remind his fellow business owners to communicate that to their customers.

Julie Winkler, a recreational boater at Squalicum Harbor, also noted that she had been informed that a charter boat had struck their vessel but no damage was noted. Jim Young mentioned that his vessel, also on gate 8, had been recently hit. Jim suggested putting an article in the newsletter reminding boaters that common courtesy is to tell people if they have had the unfortunate experience of hitting somebody else's vessel.

Dockside Feedback

Elizabeth Kilanowski informed the MAC that a dead seal had been found at G-West 86 on September 29th. The authorities were notified of this and performed a necropsy on the seal which revealed that it had been shot in the head, apparently at close range. Elizabeth raised the concern about firearms being discharged in the harbor and that a potential ricochet could be lethal to surrounding boaters. Prior to the MAC meeting Elizabeth had also notified Kyle Randolph, Harbormaster for Squalicum Harbor, who reported the incident to Zack Gaston, a local Department of Fish and Wildlife enforcement officer. Officer Gaston had taken down the information and said such incidents have been reported in the past in Bellingham Bay during the Chum fishing season.

Jim Young brought in a number of pictures from Squalicum Harbor that showed fishing gear that was either in ill repair or had perhaps been abandoned in the harbor. Jim asserted that this was a poor reflection on the harbor and wanted discussion with the MAC about the disposition of this type of gear at Squalicum. The discussion of these photos led to the next item on the agenda.

Merchant Leaseholder Review

Dan gave a quick recap of the Merchant Leaseholder discussion conducted at the September MAC meeting. At the conclusion of that discussion it was decided that staff would do outreach with the active commercial fishermen at Squalicum and Blaine Harbor, solicit their feedback on outside gear issues, and report back to the MAC at their October meeting. Dan then turned the floor over to Andy Peterson, Blaine Harbormaster, to give an update to the MAC. Andy

distributed a copy of the flier that had been developed in-house that was used to survey harbor practices by the commercial fishermen and get their input as to positive changes that might take place. Andy commented that this was a busy time of year with openings for both crab and salmon but that a number of interviews had been conducted none the less. Most of the feedback was positive with fishermen wanting the harbor to be orderly and functional. A broad discussion ensued with both the MAC and the audience about examples that were both appropriate and inappropriate. There was a broad sense from the MAC about the need to get rid of abandoned gear in the storage areas.

Dan reviewed the history of the MAC's interest in making recommendations about outside storage at Squalicum Harbor. In the past 10 years the MAC has spent significant time and energy on weblocker issues. These efforts have been effective in making the lockers better organized, more compliant with the Rules and Regulations, and more available to active commercial fishermen. Time has also been spent on the fenced storage area. The last remaining area to be reviewed was the outside areas in the parking lots, which was the topic of discussion for the evening. The MAC showed broad support for commercial fishing activities at both harbors and acknowledged that the gear can sometimes be messy while it is being worked on during the season. It was also acknowledged however that working areas need to be kept safe at all times and that abandoned gear needs to be removed in a fashion that offers owners adequate notice so that the disposal does not become a liability for the harbor.

Ian Puchlik raised the question as to why there were no charges for the outside areas in discussion tonight. Dan commented that the Port did not have a practice for charging in this area as it did for the weblockers and the fenced area. The conclusion of this discussion was that staff would bring back proposed changes to the rules and regulations for MAC consideration at their November meeting. If the MAC concurred at the November meeting, these recommendations would be forwarded to the Port Commission for inclusion into changes in the rules and regulations in January with enforcement of abandoned gear beginning in the first quarter of 2016.

Market Sixty Day Review: Staff also agreed to do a review of outside charges at other non-fenced areas at other commercial fishing ports.

Oil Spill and B&P Awareness Presentation

Andy presented a half-hour Power Point presentation regarding this subject. There was significant discussion back and forth with the MAC and staff, and appreciation for the Port's involvement of stewardship. The [Power Point](#) is attached to these minutes.

Staff Updates

- Dan asked for any rules and regulation changes that the MAC would be interested in. Ian Puchlik asked about whether there could be fines for improper behavior in the harbor. The current rules and regulations do not provide for such. After discussion it was suggested that as the staff is doing the survey of market pricing, they should also ask this question. Staff agreed to bring this back in sixty days.
- Ian Puchlik then brought up the issue of seaworthiness and is it okay for vessels to be in the harbor but not operable? Discussion ensued regarding the Port's new moorage agreements and insurance requirements, which may require haul outs for many vessels. It was mentioned that these requirements may work to remove unseaworthy vessels from the harbor.
- Andy Peterson then gave several updates regarding completed moorage agreements and insurance policies meeting the new requirements. This is still an ongoing process as documents continue to be submitted to the Port. Blaine has approx. 10 outstanding customers with Squalicum at approx. 50; which is significant progress considering that we have 2,000 slips. Staff will continue to pursue people to get them into compliance.
- Gate codes: As staff has been collecting email addresses for moorage customers we will begin to distribute gate code changes via email, which is much appreciated by the MAC.
- Andy replied to Ian Puchlik's request from last month for a wi-fi hot spot near the Blaine office. Andy is continuing to work with Ecco Wireless and is hopeful to provide an update at the next meeting.

With no further business the October 13, 2015 MAC meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.