

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016 SQUALICUM HARBOR BOATHOUSE BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Members present	Members absent	Port staff	Guests
Brian Pemberton	Peter Border	Andy Peterson	Dan Robbins
Jerry Writer	Byron Richards	Dan Stahl	Bob Briscoe
Jim Young	Jim Kyle	Kyle Randolph	*See sign-in sheet
Ian Puchlik	Elizabeth Kilanowski	Pam Taft	attachment #1*
Paul Burrill			
Gene Knutson			
Bill Douglas			

Note from April 12, 2016 meeting agenda:

This meeting will have two Public Comment Periods. The first will be at the beginning of the meeting. Once this period is closed, the public will be asked to hold their comments until the end of the meeting. When the MAC has concluded their discussion, the floor will be opened again for Public Comment. Individuals are welcome to speak at either or both periods.

Roll Call

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

Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes was made by Jim Young and seconded by Bill Douglas. They were passed unanimously.

Public Comment #1

To reduce redundancy, duplicated topics from multiple speakers will be condensed into groups. Although efforts have been made to include the names of all speakers, it is possible that some names were missed. Efforts have been made to accurately represent all topics discussed.

Liveaboard Fee: Several liveaboard customers, including Mrs. Rockwell-Bengen, Mr. Milward, Mr. Packard, Mr. France, Mrs. Winkler, Mr. Chism and Mr. Martel, commented on the proposed liveaboard fee and questioned its basis. Most felt there should be no fee for living aboard a vessel. Additionally some felt that voluntary assistance provided by liveaboards (added security, assistance to distressed boaters, etc.) outweighed any additional expense liveaboards may create for the harbors.

Shared Regulations: Mrs. Winkler and Mr. Van Schenk commented that some of the proposed regulations, such as dock cart use and MSD systems, should apply to all moorage customers and not just liveaboards. Mr. Brown echoed this comment with regard to parking enforcement.

Definition of a liveaboard: Mr. Brown and Mr. Cano questioned the proposed definition of a liveaboard and how it would apply to individuals who live aboard seasonally.

Impacts from other users: Ms. Pettyjohn, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Van Schenk commented that many non-liveaboards also utilize harbor facilities (general public, charter companies, etc.) and questioned why a similar conversation was not being made with regard to them.

Ms. Jordan: Questioned the proposed regulations regarding minimum boat size and the definition of a family.

Brian Pemberton: Read comments provided by two absentee MAC members Elizabeth Kilanowski and Peter Border, as well as Squalicum liveaboard Tom Coe.

Dockside Feedback

Jim Young said that a number of pleasure boaters he spoke with were not in favor of the Port of Bellingham funding and operating the fuel dock at Blaine Harbor and proposed a motion to the Port Commission stating that the MAC was not in favor of the Port continuing to pursue re-opening the fuel dock in Blaine. Brian Pemberton suggested that the motion be tabled until the end of the meeting.

Kyle Randolph commented that during a high wind event on March 10th many people came out to assist harbor staff in securing loose vessels. Some of the assistance came from liveaboards such as Elizabeth Kilanowski, Bert Rubash, and Nicole Jordan. Assistance also came from upland tenants such as Roger Schelderup and the staff from Northwest Explorations.

Liveaboard Policy

Dan Stahl explained the Commission adopted moorage model which determines moorage rates and explained both the Port's and the MAC's desire to start saving for a down payment on a large capital improvement project replacing the inner harbor docks at Squalicum Harbor.

Kyle Randolph reintroduced the liveaboard survey ([attachment #2](#)) that staff had compiled with information from comparable Puget Sound Marinas as well as a new liveaboard application and agreement for use as a reference when discussing the next topic, the proposed Liveaboard Rules, Regulations and Procedures.

Kyle Randolph then reviewed the Discussion Draft of the Liveaboard Rules, Regulations and Procedures. Significant discussion ensued between marina staff and MAC members. When the review of the documents was completed staff was directed to bring a refined draft back to the MAC in May. These documents would then be the basis for the discussion at the May MAC meeting.

Staff Updates

Andy mentioned that Blaine Harbor and the Semiahmoo Yacht Club are hosting a representative from US Customs and Border Protection who will be discussing new rules concerning foreign registered vessels on April 15, 2016 at the Blaine Boating Center.

Brian Pemberton brought up Jim Young's earlier comment about a MAC motion against rebuilding the Blaine fuel dock. After some discussion Jim Young made a motion in support of discussing the topic in future MAC meetings should the Port Commission request their input. The motion was seconded by Ian Puchlik and the vote passed unanimously.

Public Comment #2

Liveaboard Fee: Mrs. Pettyjohn, Mr. Chism and Mr. Van Schenk commented on proposed fees. Mr. Milward reiterated the thought that liveaboards provide needed services which outweigh any additional costs from liveaboards and questioned the cost to enforce liveaboard regulations.

Mr. Anderson: Talked about security as he felt the 3 digit gate codes do not keep people out. He would also like to see more dinghy racks on Gate 6.

Ms. Van Schenk: Thought the rules seemed adversarial and seemed like they are trying to address a problem which should be managed without the need for new rules.

With no further business the MAC adjourned their meeting at 8:45 PM.