

APPENDIX A

Comments from public workshop of October 15, 2001
Minutes from Town Council Public Workshop December 4, 2001

Notes from the Harbor Planning Committee
Public Workshop October 15, 2001
7:00 p.m. Town Hall

Present from the Committee were: Chairman Matt Hayes, Vice Chairman and Town Councilman Ray Cordeiro; David Sartrys; and Bob Hammel

Items raised during the workshop:

- Concern about requirement that selling moorings to next on waiting list would result in inflated prices. Suggest that mooring has to sell for fair market value or find another standard to set price for moorings.
- Section on fines needs to be clearer. For example, fine “up to \$100” could be arbitrarily applied.
- Late fees and penalties proposed were “too harsh”.
- Concern about raising fees for mooring when “no services” provided.
- Concern about selling boat if can’t sell on the mooring because the mooring has to go to the next person on the waiting list. Suggestion to include a provision that boats can be sold on their moorings.
- The ordinance and the plan is only as good as the people charged with implementation and enforcement.
- Need definition of winters stakes
- Town should not accept any grant money for State Street dock. Town should maintain that dock for Bristol residents.
- Check CRMC assent for Rockwell Dock which included a requirement that there be an equal (50/50) proportion of commercial to recreational slips.
- Concern about raising fees for docks.

- Suggestion to implement ideas on administration, capital improvements, expanded pump out, etc. and then ask for fee increase

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- Town should have a policy that fees for commercial fisherman increase only a certain % with each fee increase. Intent is for preservation of the commercial fishing in Bristol.
- Concern that mooring fees not raised to the same percentage as dock fees; concern that power boats on dock not the same as sail boats on moorings.
- Tie rate increase into need for increase due to more services.
- Concern that State Street dock needs immediate repairs
- Transient docks at the end of Rockwell Dock are better than the proposal for transient docks at the end of State Street.
- Keep State Street for access by fishermen. It is the only deep water access landing area for commercial fishermen.
- In the design for any improvements on State Street, such as the boardwalk, integrate this into the use by the fishermen. Balance recreational/aesthetics with commercial use.
- Need a daytime presence on the harbor.
- Establish a job description for daytime presence and set hours for same, include Saturday and Sunday. Don't need fire arms for this person.
- Tie harbor patrol into police department.
- Consider a senior citizen discount on the fees
- Currently a moratorium on commercial licenses from the State

- Town should not accept any State money for State Street Dock since this money usually comes with a requirement that all residents of the State may use. Likewise, the Town should not accept any Federal money if it comes with strings regarding who can use. State and Federal grants usually require paying

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- Davis/Bacon wages which drives the cost up. Sometimes it is better to save \$ from Town's capital account and do without a grant.
- Not likely that the Town will be able to dedicate a fund exclusively for the harbor. Harbor Master and Harbor Commission needs to coordinate on budget requests during budget time before the Town Council.
- Prudence Ferry needs a dumpster, suggestion to include this in the plan
- Recommended that there be transient moorings in the harbor.
- Intent of Rockwell Dock to be available for lower rents. Keep reasonable price—don't price it out of reach for Bristolians. Check coastal assents for distribution of commercial and residential users at the dock.
- Currently Rockwell has 82 slips with ½ to be allocated to commercial. There are currently 19 commercial slips being used at the dock.
- Parking at State Street and Church Street are resident sticker. There is a parking problem identified here.
- Marina slip owners who are Bristol residents can use parking on Thames Street.
- Design for State Street dock and parking improvement needs to be sensitive to the commercial fishermen. Concern for keeping this a working/functional dock.
- If possible, remove the pilings that are located on the south side of State Street dock. (These are privately owned)

- Downtown Boardwalk linkage needs to be “tied into the working waterfront”. Plan is for the boardwalk to link Independence Park to Rockwell Park. Currently have some completed segments of this link.
- Change wording at Rockwell Dock to “no fishing from dock”; currently sign says no fishing on dock.

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- There should not be any public parking behind the fire station (there are currently 2 public spaces here). There would be better access for fishermen without the parking there. Apparently it is used predominantly by Prudence Island residents.
- Staffing procedure for the Harbor Master to be drafted by the harbor commission and presented to the Town Council with a job description. Also, need to check the Town Charter too.
- Need to keep waiting lists publicly posted.
- Review ordinance language regarding “Shall” and “will”. Make language so that there is no confusion as to what is required procedure.
- Currently dock space is provided to people during the winter. This is currently free and used by all commercial fishermen, resident and nonresident. These users don’t seem to take care of the slips while they are there and are destroying the property. Consider charging a fee for these boats to use the slips in the winter. Consider designating a specific spot for them or may be better that they not be there are all. Concern is that the come from out of town and are competition for Bristol fishermen.
- Consider renting docks for 6 months or a season rather than on a yearly basis.
- Subletting slips is a “tradition” at Rockwell Dock but not legally provided for.