

February 1, 2007

The regular monthly meeting of the Oxford Board of Port Wardens was called to order by the chairman, Thomas Campbell, on Thursday, February 1, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., in the meeting room of the Oxford Community Services Building.

Other board members in attendance were Larry Murray, Harwood "Woody" Martin, and Richard Johnson.

The minutes of the meeting of January 4, 2007 were approved and accepted as distributed.

A workshop session was held with the Board of Port Wardens and Commissioners Henry Hale, Timothy Kearns, and James Klair to discuss the pros and cons of having a mooring field. Concerns were expressed by the board members as to the fact that there is currently no one inspecting moorings and there is no way of knowing what kinds of moorings are being dropped (such as mushroom shaped or block moorings). Mr. Murray also noted that another big concern of the board would be the control of what type of grandtackle is being put down.

Questions that were raised included does the town want to get involved in this at all, and should a private contractor be hired or should the town guide something of this nature?

The Commissioners noted that they have received letters asking them about moorings. Commissioners Klair thought that have a mooring field would not only be good for gaining control of the harbor but also as a way to generate money for the town in order to hire and equip a harbor master. Mr. Campbell noted that currently there is not any enforcement to ensure that approved permits are being built correctly as approved by the board. Currently the board members look at things to see if they are visually acceptable but are unable to get exact measurements to prove that everything is being built correctly.

Mr. Campbell asked if the town is trying to prevent moorings. Commissioner Hale noted that his feeling was that the town is trying to get control of the area, and that even with a harbor master, it may take awhile.

Observations and suggestions made included:

- setting up mooring permits and fees with applicants providing a plan and a grid as to where they want to set a mooring. This could be an annual negotiation that would protect the town.
- There will probably be an increase of more and more moorings because the marinas are getting fuller and slips are being lost.
- Perhaps an ordinance should be created but have something written into it that would defend the Tred Avon Yacht Club which already has their own moorings

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and a strict policy of their own to cover their moorings.

- That the jurisdiction of a mooring field be shared between the town and the state with permits secured by the state as well as with the town.
- That just the town be allowed to handle all of Town Creek.

In closing the workshop, Mr. Campbell asked the Commissioners if next year's budget could include a comprehensive updating of the harbor management plan and harbor maps since these are used regularly by the Port Wardens for reference.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Willoughby