

November 5, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Oxford Board of Port Wardens was called to order by the acting chairman, Larry Murray, on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Oxford Community Services Building.

Other board members in attendance were Stan Bright and Nancy Cook.

The following building permit was re-reviewed by the board:

Permit #09-06 Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Munsch, 710 S. Morris Street, request to construct a 150' x 5' timber pier to include a 15' x 12' "L" and boat lift. Mr. and Mrs. Munsch were represented by their contractor, Mark Hill, from Bailey Marine Construction. Mr. Hill presented the commission with a certified plat of the Munsch's property, as requested by the board at their meeting with Mr. Hill on September 9, which showed to scale the location of the proposed timber pier, "L", and boat lift. In looking over the plat, it was found that the proposed pier and "L" would fit within the required setbacks. Mr. Bright made a motion to accept the application as presented and to issue a permit. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cook and unanimously carried.

This concluded the review of permit applications.

REQUEST TO BE ON AGENDA

Mark Shultz introduced himself to the commission and explained that he had been living on his boat in Town Creek off the end of Market Street unawares that he needed a permit to do so. Though Mr. Shultz is no longer living on his boat, he notified the board that he was planning on returning in the spring and questioned what he had to do to obtain a permit in order to live aboard his boat. Mr. Murray explained to Mr. Shultz that though the harbor ordinance states one needs a permit to live aboard their boat, it does not explain how to go about it. At this time, the Board of Port Wardens does not have a specific application for such and will need to investigate how to go about addressing this.

OLD BUSINESS

The board members looked over the recent interoffice memo from the Commissioners to the board regarding new changes to the recent proposed mooring ordinance. Cathy Bitter, a resident of the town, addressed the board and asked if they had contacted the agency known as the Maryland Boat Act Advisory Committee. She suggested that there may be a committee the town could talk to with regards to moorings. Mr. Murray replied that he thought they covered requirements relative to personal watercraft such as speed limits and other restrictions for moving watercraft about. Ms. Bitter volunteered to bring into the town office information relative to that organization so that the Port Wardens could review it as she believed the committee really could be of useful assistance.

Gus Koste, another resident of the town, addressed the board with several concerns he had with regards to the proposed mooring regulations. He addressed the following issues:

1. Concern with the proposed regulations requiring owners of moorings to submit to the town office notice every time a new vessel is placed on a mooring. Mr. Koste questioned how this would affect the Tred Avon Yacht Club because they have five moorings of their own and never know what they have tied up to them. Mr. Murray responded that with regards to those particular five moorings, he did not think the town would be concerned about what particular boats were tied up to them because he felt that most likely the moorings are designed to accommodate the largest vessels that the yacht club would expect.
2. Would the Tred Avon Yacht Club have to pay the fees proposed in the draft regulations? Mr. Murray responded that as things as written they would have to pay. However, this is a work in progress and the board has no way of knowing what the final results will be.
3. Concern with what the Commissioners have proposed and sent to the Port Wardens for review, particularly on how boats should be attached to moorings. Mr. Koste noted that on his mooring he has a single chain and he felt that it was more secure than what the Commissioners had proposed in their written document. Again, Mr. Murray pointed out that what has been written in not a final document. He felt that Mr. Koste had made some good points and that what Mr. Koste had brought up at this night's meeting should be considered.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Murray
Acting Secretary