

Harbor Committee Minutes
August 31, 2011

Members present: Jerry Smith, Chair; Charles Meech, Michael Childers, Gary Russell, Arnie Nelson, Gary Krupsack, Tab Butler and Tim Eldred, Alternate

Members absent: Bob Kron, Alternate

Also present: Jason Stangland and Bill Brose, consultants from JJR

1. Call to order.

Harbor Committee meeting called to order on Wednesday, August 31, 2011 at 6:30 pm by Chair J. Smith. A quorum of the committee is present as reflected in members listed above.

2. Review the results of the public meeting and confirm the elements that will become part of the final long-range plan/report.

Appears to be a consensus to do something with mooring area regarding lighting, buoys, and marking the area clearly to relieve congestion in that area.

General consensus that the town dock needs to be widened and lengthened to accommodate commercial, recreational, ferry and foot traffic.

There is a general consensus that the interior harbor is a good concept but discussion is needed with the Yacht Club, regulatory agencies, as well as talking about funding. People like the idea of the additional slips that would be created.

The Middle Road pier seems 50/50; not a lot of opposition against that concept. Jason said he thought the Middle Road pier was a done deal other than a couple of people who had concerns. The Middle Road pier would not have the commercial traffic that had been discussed but would be more for recreational boating.

Short discussion of putting in a heavy duty floating dock and towing that dock inside for the winter.

A. Nelson said his thoughts from the meeting is that #1 priority is the Middle Road pier because of public use, fishing pier, transient slips and benefit to the downtown area. That concept would have the best chance of finding available funding. #2 priority would be the town dock, in the next 5 years and #3 priority would be to start working with the Yacht Club in regards to the interior harbor marina. Transient slips are number one.

Discussion of transient slips and congestion in regards to ferry traffic. Do not think traffic would be changed much.

In the area by the Inn and Yacht Club there will have to be changes in regards to the boat yard; a bathroom would be needed that is closer to Old Fort Road and maybe a breakwater to help with wave action. Agreement that two areas for bathrooms and showers are needed.

Bill Brose said another good idea was moving the launch ramp to the other side and reconfiguring everything to make room for parking. After further discussion agreement that it would be a good idea to put a bathroom and showers on the east end of the lot that the Marina owns.

Discussion of the saw tooth for the new boat that could be coming in five years. The landing would have to be done by then. G. Russell said the Madeline Island Ferry Lines, Inc. (MIFL) is looking at the Harbor Assistance Program for funding. The Town has worked very well with the MIFL with this type of funding. The MIFL pays the engineering costs; the grant is a 80/20 grant with the MIFL picking up the 20% so the Town does not have to outlay anything. Need to get on the HAP program in the next couple of years so that planning is ready.

G. Russell said he hopes all the boats will be able to use the new landing. The "Bayfield" is the only ferry that can use the ~~new saw tooth in Bayfield~~ *current sawtooth on the Island*.

Jason said John Spangberg, DNR has promised to send information regarding the wetlands in the marina area. Need a wetland delineation. The first step would be to find funding for the additional studies that might be needed in that area. The grant would be a 80/20 split, the approximate cost \$60,000.00 but you need to get the right type of grant. Also, have studies already taken place in that area by the marina?

A. Nelson said it took 2 years to get the permit for Bob Hartzell's transient slip area. The soil has been disturbed already. Do we ask JJR to start to look for funding?

Jason said once you create a final plan is when you start looking for funding. JJR will create the plan regarding the Town dock, pier and marina and mooring area, then give you a cost of each of the phases. At that point JJR has fulfilled the contract. The next phase would be to evaluate all the funding sources for each phase. There could be grants available if the town dock was built prior to 1899.

Suggestion to put toilets on the town dock; a receiving building in either the Post Office or Island Thyme; a covered walkway for pedestrians when they get off the boat. The Post Office building could stay but any commercial activity in that building would cause just as much congestion as there is now.

Discussion of the Middle Road pier.

Suggestion by T. Eldred to make the Middle Road pier as substantial as possible to be able to carry trucks so that in the future if ferry and traffic make the dock too congested we would have a spot for heavy trucks to unload if necessary. Need to construct with an eye to the future. Also need to also consider land acquisition in that area. If a fishing pier were to be used for bulk handling there would have to be appropriate space where the beach is now for trucks. Could see the area bulkheaded all the way from the old dock to the Middle Road dock and then there would be plenty of space for transient docking. Question to Gary – can the new sawtooth be done by itself or do all the upgrades to the town dock have to be done at the same time? G. Russell said he is pretty sure the saw tooth can be done at any time.

Question if the picture of the town dock is correct. Jason said the 20 or 40 foot extension is not on that picture and should be. G. Russell said the saw tooth should be a little more at an angle so the boats are not side by side.

T. Eldred said the additional room at the end of the dock could be used for bulk handling but eventually the ferry traffic could be so much that the bulk handling will have to go elsewhere.

A. Nelson said to build the Middle Road pier to handle trucks you would have to use the beach property and have that area for the trucks to pull off of and someone out there flagging as the trucks were backing down the dock. It is intriguing to people in the ferry line to watch Ronnie load the trucks from the barge, but he would also understand how it would not be so intriguing to adjacent property owners having to listen to that Detroit loading and unloading trucks. That, however, would remove a lot of the big congestion around the pergola area.

Suggestion that the town acquire the former Hargest property.

Question if the Middle Road dock were to be constructed, would that shoal up on the southern side?

Discussion of dredging. There is dredging out by the dock because the town dock is a federal harbor. Never have dredged by the first L shaped dock. All the sand goes by that dock and into the main dock.

Question of the type of dock that would be built off of Middle Road. Bill Brose said he would not put in a floating dock; the dock would need to be fixed or pile supported which would let

materials pass through. What about a floating attachment to the dock that could be raised/lowered for access?

Discussion of the beach area by Middle Road. There would no longer be a swimming area or an area for sea planes to land. Suggestion to put the seaplanes on the outer edge of the beach. Swimming would be at Joni's Beach. Because of a deed restriction the beach in front of the church parking lot could not be purchased.

Discussion of car and foot traffic coming from the dock area. Does this project look at traffic flow? When people get off the ferry they generally turn right so a sidewalk should be there. People are backing out of the Post Office as people are walking off the boat.

Question if the pergola could be moved? There is an artesian well by the pergola.

Agreement the Post Office has to come out first.

Jason asked what could be put in the place of the Post Office. Suggestions were parking, bathrooms, room for trucks. What about the Island Thyme side? Could have a service building; bathrooms, coffee shop. The Chamber has no interest in being in that area.

Jason will look at sidewalks.

Good job!

Motion to adjourn by J. Smith, second, A. Nelson. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant.

Minutes approved as corrected on September 20, 2011. Deletions struck through, corrections in italics.