

**Harbor Committee Minutes
September 20, 2011**

Members present: Jerry Smith, Chair; Charles Meech, Gary Russell, Michael Childers, Tab Butler, Gary Krubsack, Tim Eldred, Alternate and Bob Kron, Alternate.

Members absent: Arnie Nelson

Ex Officio members present: Keith Sowl, Town Foreman

1. Call to order.

Harbor Committee meeting called to order on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. by Chair, J. Smith. A quorum of the committee is present as reflected in members listed above.

2. Review and approve the following Harbor Committee minutes:

A. August 10, 2011

Motion by T. Eldred to approve the August 10, 2011 Harbor Committee minutes as presented. Second, B. Kron. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

B. August 31st, 2011

Correction to minutes: Top of page 2: "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." Minutes should read: that the Bayfield is the only ferry that can use the current sawtooth on the Island.

Motion to approve the minutes as corrected by C. Meech, second, G. Russell. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

J. Smith will find out why there are no minutes available for the first meeting on August 31, 2011 with JJR and the Harbor Committee and the public information session on August 31, 2011.

3. Discussion and/or recommendation to the Town Board of vouchers submitted for approval:

No vouchers submitted. JJR would like to know how much is left in the budget but that figure will not be available until JJR sends an invoice to the Harbor Committee.

4. Discussion of Harbor Feasibility Study

A. JJR's Two Town Dock Concept Alternatives

JJR is trying to finalize the suggestions received from the August 31, 2011 meetings so as to have some project costs for the Harbor Committee to consider. Before the costs can be calculated, JJR needs more information regarding the Town Dock area. Agreement had been reached that the Post Office is an obstacle and that the gazebo should remain so JJR has presented two concepts for committee review.

Concept #1 and #2 are hereby attached and made a part of these minutes.

Concept #1

All inbound and outbound traffic is located on the NW side of the dock. The Post Office building could be relocated to where Island Thyme is now and changed to a visitor center.

Cooperation with present property owners would be needed for this concept.

Concept #2

Post Office building remains with a separate entrance to the Post Office with more parking spaces. The congestion in the area would continue, but ferry traffic would be separated from Post Office traffic.

The titles shown need to be flip-flopped regarding inbound and outbound lanes.

The dashed line running down the dock shows the existing dock.

Two new outbound lanes have been added.

Pedestrian walkways are shown by hash marks. The Gazebo would remain.

Comparison of Concept 1 and Concept 2

Concept 2 relieves congestion in the Post Office area due to the separate entrance and provides more parking. There is no visitor center. The present Island Thyme building would be removed and replaced with a park.

Suggestion to purchase the lot between the former Parranto property and Island Thyme for a visitor's center as an indoor waiting area is needed. Suggestion to place such a facility on a floating platform since there is limited land area and a lot of water space.

Discussion of a third concept: Remove Island Thyme and overlay Concept 1 over Concept 2.

A con to this third concept would be that the ferry lanes would have to merge.

Question as to how many lanes are needed. In Bayfield there can be up to 8 lanes of traffic waiting to get on the boats on a busy day. Here there are 4 lanes; one lane is needed for people to drop off and pick up people at the end of the dock.

G. Russell likes the walkways on each side of the dock. He also thinks that people like to circle around the pergola so suggests keeping a couple of lanes on the south side of the gazebo instead of heading straight up to Colonel Woods Avenue. Also, long rigs would not be able to make the turn to get on the boat. Now, many times, the big rigs access the ferry from the Post Office side rather than trying to make the turn around the pergola.

Suggestion to have a sidewalk on the northwest side of the dock that would curve when the sidewalk reaches shore. Keep the sidewalk heading to Main Street.

Suggestion to have the walkways off and on the dock partially covered; or could have the walkway down the center of the dock with two traffic lanes on one side and three on the other. The present Island Thyme building could be a visitors center or be removed.

B. Kron said at one time a suggestion was to have a walkway off of the dock, along the waterway, that ended at the alleyway between the Madeline Island Ferry Line (MIFL) office and Beach Club. This walkway would give pedestrians a nice walk along the water and would remove traffic on Main Street. Everyone likes this idea.

Agreement that the relocation of the Post Office building would be a Town decision.

Suggestion to add a small deck to the post office so people could socialize. A handicap parking spot is needed. Agreement that moving the Post Office would have an immediate effect on the area.

This will be the #1 recommendation.

Question if Concept #2 could be modified with sidewalks and a change to the corner. Parking by the Post Office area could be left as shown in Concept 2 but the large rig turning issue would have to be addressed. Also, is there enough room for back to back rows of parking if the Post Office building remains?

Suggestion to move the Post Office building and put in a small visitor/waiting area.

Discussion of the Upland Service area. If this were to be used for barge unloading and stockpiling the area would look like a warehouse storage area.

Now the barge unloads on the NW side of the dock and if the weather is bad they shut down.

The barge could unload at the end of the dock.

Suggestion to use the end of the dock for stockpiling 1000 yards of gravel. Would have to make sure the seas would not wash the material into the lake.

A better use of the upland service area would be to put a walkway along the bulkhead/beach and construct a small bathroom/waiting building.

The dock is 41 feet across now. JJR suggested widening the dock 28 to 34 feet on the north side.

Agreement that a decision does not have to be made right now regarding Island Thyme or the Post Office areas. Do have to worry about the big rigs making the corner to get on/off the ferries.

J. Smith asked if he should contact JJR and tell them that we would like a new drawing that leaves everything pretty much the way it is now, except for the following: address the long rig turning issue; remove the upland service area; put in a walkway along the bulkhead/lake; double the entryway to the dock area by taking out the corner by Island Thyme; use the lot next to the Island Thyme area as a park or buffer zone.

More discussion of the Upland Service Area. If that area is owned by the town there will be boats docked along the shore so access will be needed for the docked boats. If the seawall could be lengthened all the way to MIFL office there could be transient docking and a walkway put along there. Vehicular access would be needed so people could unload groceries, lumber, etc. If this area were to be treated as a recreational use then parking would not be needed; however, parking could be used for people getting on the boat for the day which would free up parking along Main Street. K. Sowl said he doubts if there would be funding available for recreational use. Most of the funding would come from DOT Harbor Assistance Program, which is for commercial use.

Agreement that it is a good idea to look at the end of the dock in the largest possible terms. Ask JJR to show the turning radius of dump trucks while the ferry boats are unloading from the saw tooth to make sure there is enough room at the end of the dock.

Need to find out how much bulk handling there is to get cost/use priorities lined up with need.

Suggestion to widen the dock to 80 feet and extend the end of the dock to the length of the dolphins. The sheet piling at the end of the dock would have to be extended so material would not be washed into the lake.

J. Smith will put thoughts down in an email and send to everyone. If any committee member has suggestions contact JJR directly.

To summarize: The Committee has decided not to go with Concept One or Two. Widen the dock to 75/80 feet. Determine the turning radius at the end of the dock. Consider the relocation of the pergola and possible purchase of the property by the Post Office and Island Thyme. Could leave the Post Office building and just move the post office boxes to another location.

The committee likes the walkway along the bulkhead to the MIFL office or straight down to the Beach Club. Need to fix the NW corner. Do not need five lanes of traffic; just wide lanes.

5. Grant Review

A. WI Coastal Management

B. WI DNR Recreational Boating Grant

C. Island Matching Fund

Nothing new.

6. Budget Review

Nothing new.

7. Research Project from Town Board

A. Regulation of buoys & vessel types

B. Regulations of breakwater & breakwater use

J. Smith said he was never contacted by the Town Board regarding these agenda items so he does not know what the Town Board would like researched.

B. Kron said he put together a memorandum about what could be done. The Town has to find out what authority the town has, by ordinance, to police and control that district because there are overlapping authorities. The Town also has to figure out how to police traffic so as to cut down on wakes, etc. There are appropriate designated buoys that run the end of the breakwall to the marina. The entry buoys to the marina channel should be moved outward so traffic would go further to the south or west which would cut the traffic off going to the designated anchorage. An area by Joni's Beach should be roped off by buoys and made into a swimming area. Areas designated for dingy storage would have permits issued by the Town and the anchorage laid out appropriately and a standard set for ground anchors.

J. Smith said the mooring area is being addressed by JJR. Right now the committee has a full plate with the long range plan and feasibility study so research would not take place until winter.

Suggestion to keep these items on the Harbor Committee agenda, or, if the Town would be willing to spend some money, JJR could be asked to do the research since JJR deals with harbors.

B. Kron offers to research these items.

8. Set next meeting and agenda

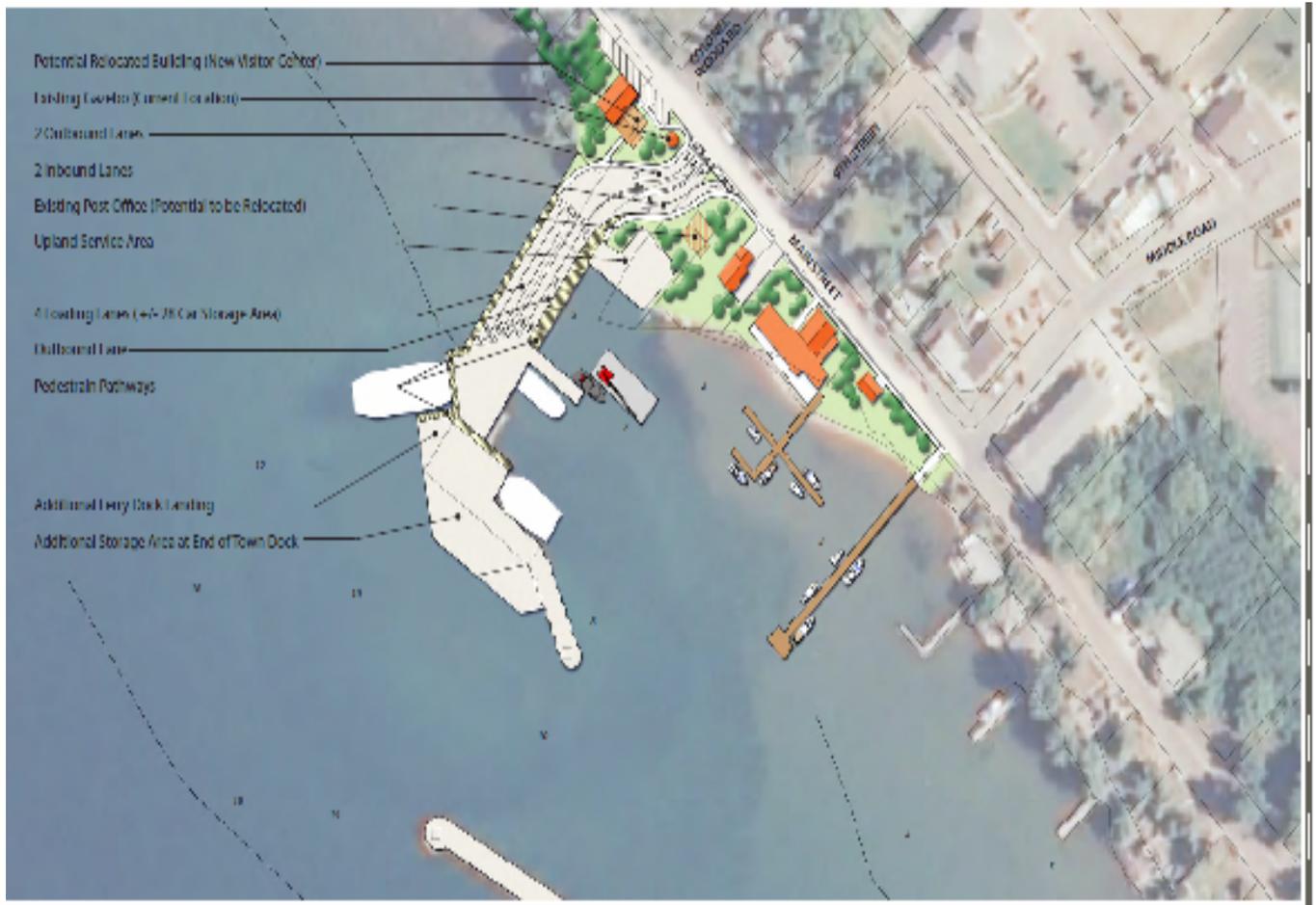
No date set for the next meeting

9. Adjourn

Motion by G. Russell to adjourn, second, G. Krubsack. All in favor, all aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant.
Minutes approved as presented November 17, 2011



TOWN OF LA POINTE
MADRIE ISLAND LAKE SUPERIOR

TOWN DOCK - CONCEPT 1
LA POINTE HARBOR
LONG RANGE PLAN & FEASIBILITY STUDY





TOWN OF LA POINTE
 MADELINE ISLAND LAKE SUPERIOR

TOWN DOCK - CONCEPT 2
 LA POINTE HARBOR
 LONG RANGE PLAN & FEASIBILITY STUDY

