



OBSERVER REPORT

HARBORS AND WATERS BOARD:

February 6, 2023, at 7:30 pm at the Harbormaster's Office

LWVM Observer: Kathy Breslin

Members in Attendance: John Doub, Ken Breen, Clarke Smith, Rick Cuzner

Others in Attendance: Mark Souza, Harbormaster

AGENDA

Meeting called to order and January minutes approved.

Public questions on State St. Bathroom

Resident Phil Blaisdell brought up Article 32, sponsored by the Board of Selectmen and others, which was passed at Town Meeting in May 1996. It provided that the State St. bathroom will be kept open year-round, with the Recreation and Parks Dept. in charge; funding was provided. Ultimately the furnace for heating during the winter was not serviced or maintained, it failed, and the pipes burst. Jurisdiction was subsequently transferred from Rec and Parks to Harbors and Waters. It has not been kept open during the winter for some years. Phil offered to assemble a group of volunteers to maintain the bathroom as had been done in the past.

The harbormaster, Mark Souza, stated that the furnace would likely need to be replaced. The recent \$50,000 State grant to renovate the bathroom did not address the gas bills for heating. In addition, there is no line item for heating the bathroom in the general facilities budget. The Harbors and Waters Board does not feel they should oversee maintaining the bathroom. Mark stated he will speak to Amy McHugh about the furnace and that he would investigate an alternative department to manage the State St bathroom. The other public bathrooms are managed by Rec and Parks.

Phil commented that keeping the State St bathroom open year-round would benefit residents and, especially, tourists. In addition, Town Meeting voted for it and the Town's will should be upheld. Rockport has a bathroom open year-round on T Wharf.

Resident Steve Wolf mentioned that the Marblehead Harbor Plan is in the rough draft phase and open for comments. Mark stated that he will submit comments for the State St. Revitalization plan.

FY 24 budget discussions: Nothing to report since the last meeting.

Harbormaster report

Parker's boatyard docks are 90% built, awaiting decking. Dave Haley moves all our docks. He recently found the missing Village St. dock and brought it back.

New software system update: The software company didn't understand our customer's issues. Mark has been on the phone with them daily. We require documentation and registration for our mooring permits; other towns don't. Mark would like to eliminate the documentation and registration requirements. Now we need the expiration date and registration number.

The West Shore mooring wait list is now 2-3 years.

Stramsky's beach accessibility: The eel grass is an issue, unsure about limitations. Ray Bates was consulted and found too many plants, but they are not on the eel grass map. We need a survey; then the area will get on the eel grass map.

Meeting adjourned.