



SALEM HARBOR PORT AUTHORITY

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MEETING MINUTES: October 19, 2023

A public meeting of the Salem Harbor Port Authority was convened at 5:00 pm via Zoom web conference.

Members present: Kathy Winn (Chair), Mayor Pangallo, Councilor Bob McCarthy, Fred Atkins, and Captain Fred Ryan

Others Present: Capt. Bill McHugh – Harbormaster, Daniel Collins – Planning Department

Call to Order

Ms. Winn called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Captain McHugh outlined the format for the meeting, indicating that members of the public may provide comments during the period of the meeting designated for public comment.

Harbormaster Report

Captain McHugh reported last month on a mechanical causality on the Bowditch. Fortunately, it was under warranty, but it will not be completed until the Spring. Alternative ships will be used and are expected to handle capacity.

Crowley has submitted their security plan to the Coast Guard, and it is expected to be approved. It will allow the City to have the greatest flexibility possible for public access while staying within regulations.

The facility security plan will have an external audit October 26th, to be completed by Gerry Connors. The annual compliance exam has been completed and passed.

Planning Staff Report

Mr. Collins provided an update on grant awards. There are two MARAD Port Infrastructure Development Program Awards. One for FY21, which includes funding for a mooring device and port access walkway. This project has a scope change request pending. The second grant is for an FY22 award for the loadout wharf. He is coordinating closely with Crowley to solve the NEPA process. The MARAD grants are continuing to be a focus, with two mooring devices moving down to one with a reduction in cost, but increases in construction costs over the past two years.

Ms. Winn requested clarification on the mooring size. Captain McHugh explained that the change in mooring will maximize use and reduce redundancy and allow for larger yachts and smaller cruise ships. Mr. Collins added that the City will continue to coordinate with Crowley to make that walkway a reality.

Mayor Pangallo asked if there was any anticipated impact to access issues to Salem Wharf. Captain McHugh said it would not. Loading will be coordinated through the Port Authority and maintenance would likely fall to them as well.

Mr. Collins said the grant funding should be obligated by September 30, 2024, but that may be extended if good faith efforts are made in making progress.

Councilor McCarthy added that the changes to the dolphin are positive and believes it is the correct course of action.

Mr. Collins reported on the second set of grants through the Seaport Economic Development Council, with a combined award amount of \$1 million. \$300,000 was awarded to the Salem Ferry Terminal Building for the design of a new building, with an expiration date of June 30, 2025. Mayor Pangallo has signed the contract and it is expected to be signed by the Seaport Economic Development Council next week. A second grant in the amount of \$700,000 was awarded for the Salem Willows Pier for a new pier at the Willows. That grant also has an expiration date of June 30, 2025.

Captain McHugh reported that everything for the Willows Pier is in the hands of the design engineer, and he is expecting the bid documents any day. The hope is to begin construction in February. Construction is expected to last 9 months. This grant is only a portion of funding for this project, another \$2M is coming from the Commonwealth.

Mr. Collins expects the City won't apply for another grant until May 2024.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the New Bedford Marine Commerce Trip on September 5, 2023 were approved. The September 7, 2023 regular Salem Port Authority meeting were approved with two changes made requested by Captain McHugh.

Adjournment

Salem Harbor Port Authority adjourned at 6:32pm.