

City of Alpena Harbor Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes
4:30 p.m., Thursday, February 1, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m.

Committee members present: Brian Peterson, Jason Luther, Tanner Kostelic, Wayne Lewis, Don LaBarre, Steve Wilson, Ricky Konecke (arrived 4:36 p.m.)

Committee members absent: Al Moe

Staff present: Steve Shultz, Kevin Fisher, Anne Gentry, Cassie Stone

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – *Motion made by Wilson, Second by Kostelic* to approve the agenda, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –September 21, 2023 – *Motion by Lewis, Second by Wilson* to approve the minutes as presented, motion carried.

BUSINESS:

1. Introduction of New Harbormaster Kevin Fisher – Kevin stated he has met a few of the members already. He started back in December and is excited to be here. Kevin added he is here to support growth, improve the marina and looks forward to working with everyone to do so. Kevin stated he moved up to Marquette in 2017 and started managing the city campground. After a few years of doing that, started working as the Recreation Coordinator and Harbormaster for Marquette County. Kevin added he graduated with a bachelor's degree of science in outdoor recreation leadership management. Kevin stated his fiancé didn't want to live in the Upper Peninsula anymore, so they moved here and was fortunate to get this job and is hoping to be here until he retires. LaBarre welcomed Kevin aboard and said the committee was excited to have him and look forward to working with him. LaBarre added all members represent different opinions, voices and boating styles and each member can offer an unique perspective and help connect Kevin with the different boating communities so always feel free to reach out to any members individually or together.

LaBarre added for the last two seasons for the harbor meetings they have seen a lot of positive growth and a lot of community investment.

2. Approve 2024 Meeting Schedule – ***Motion by Lewis, Second by Luther*** to approve the 2024 Meeting Schedule, motion carried.
3. Review Marina Regulations – LaBarre stated he let Kevin and Cassie know of the two grammar errors he found while reviewing the regulations so they can get fixed. Wilson questioned if these were the same regulations from last year. LaBarre questioned if there needs to be better clarification on where fishing is not allowed in the marina. Luther stated putting up any sort of signage would go a long way and would let people know where you can't fish. Kevin stated he is considering putting up a metal gate on the floating area with a mechanical lock on it. Lewis questioned if a seasonal slip agreement needs to be filled out every year if nothing has changed. LaBarre stated maybe keep it on file and if anything changes it can be amended for the people that continually come back every year. Kevin stated once everything gets organized there can be discussion on that. ***Motion by Lewis, Second by Peterson*** to approve the marina regulation for the current season, motion carried. Wilson asked Steve if there has ever been any discussion with DPI and their noise whistle that they leave on for hours and hours. Steve stated this is the first time he has heard about it. Wilson has received a couple of comments from transient boaters
4. Complimentary Dockage SOP – LaBarre stated this is another document that hasn't changed since it was implemented by the city. Wilson stated last year the only comp dockage was the Sailing Club, Boy Scouts and the law enforcement personnel. Everyone was in agreeance that everything documented stays the same and nothing needs to be revised at this time.
5. Critical Issue – LaBarre asked for a update at the March meeting on when the docks will be going in. The bid for the docks did not include installation, that was going to be handled locally. Steve added that should be a quick bid and turnaround. Wilson stated the one transient dock by the gas house is on an angle and there are other docks down by his and Lewis slips that the boards on the end are wobbly and feels they are a safety concern.

Wilson also added the light poles on Prentiss Street need to be painted or something. The poles are multicolored from rust and old paint and look bad. LaBarre remembers there being discussion on possibly repurposing poles and tearing out the really bad ones. Steve stated there was discussion of possibly moving the ones that are at Culligan Plaza because those are being removed as part of the reconstruction project. Steve added that Shannon would have more information to provide the members, but she has been sick and was unable to attend tonight's meeting. She was hoping to be able to attend virtually to answer any questions. Wilson asked Steve if there has ever been any discussion with DPI about the steam whistle that goes off continuously. Steve stated this is the first time he has heard about it. Wilson added he has received a couple of comments from transient boaters.

Luther added he was down at the marina on a Sunday and the whistle from DPI was constant noise and couldn't really even have a conversation. Wilson also mentioned the smell. Steve said there are people that come here to investigate the smell if enough complaints are received but the closest place is in Gaylord and the smell is usually gone by the time someone gets here. Two summers ago, someone that did come here and smelt it and DPI was issued a letter but Steve is not sure exactly what that entailed. LaBarre added the marina does have quiet hours and the decibel is loud so there may be something that can be done about it. Wilson stated there might have to be some wood that needs to be put in on the boom lift to secure the water side because the water is so low. The gas dock needs attention as well and is a super priority item as the steel poles are scratching the bottom of the boats. Possibly add a bigger bumper around the metal cylinders. LaBarre questioned where we were at with the grant for the pump out that we received and LaBarre would also like an email update sent out to the committee regarding the gas line that needs to be fixed. LaBarre added any critical issues that members see to email Kevin and let him know. Wilson also stated the weeds in the water are a huge problem. Kevin stated he is working on that right now. A couple of the guys at DPW are going to get their certifications so we will be able to spray the weeds ourselves and not have to depend on someone to come and do it.

6. Dock Security – Kevin stated we are partnering with the county to install a camera system. We will be putting up 24-hour surveillance cameras around the marina possibly this

summer. Members agreed a camera would need to go down by the gas dock and one facing the fish cleaning station. Steve was going to check with Shannon and see where she was thinking of putting them when previously discussed.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT:

Kevin stated there isn't much to report right now and that he is still learning. Deposits are starting to come in slowly but surely for the upcoming season. Kevin added he has been working on some SOP's to help with the issues in the parking lot. Is excited for the season to start and has a big list of things to do. Kevin stated a request for proposals needs to be sent out for the vacant building for it to be leased. It needs some renovations as it currently doesn't have a bathroom or a furnace and is not in a desirable location, which makes it tough. LaBarre added that there was mention of Arlee & Reid maybe being interested in expanding over to that building. Kevin hasn't had a chance to talk with them yet but will check with them. Wilson added how important Arlee & Reid are to the marina and they have a great reputation. Kevin stated the city was approached by the National Guard about a month ago. They are getting (3) patrol boats delivered to them in March and they would prefer to keep (2) of them in the harbor, year-round. Kevin added he's not sure if we could fit them there. Could possibly locate them broadside at South Riverfront Park. There would be a cost to them to store them there. Kevin added they would be used for training, but they want electricity and water, which could also be a problem. There is another possibility of them maybe being parked at Holcim (Previously Lafarge). Kevin has another meeting coming up and will find out more information.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MEMBERS COMMENT: Luther welcomed Kevin and looks forward to working with him. LaBarre asked to check if the vacant marina building could be used as a rentable space and also its city property so how does that work with liability if rented out? Steve added that not having a bathroom and renting it out could be a problem.

STAFF COMMENT: Anne stated regarding the smell and noise at DPI, she had met with Montiel at one of their strategic planning meetings about beautification goals and could

the city enforce them with them breaking the sound barrier in the city. Anne added she made a note to follow up with Montiel if there is anything that can be done because all the complaints received have been from downtown about what DPI is doing.

NEXT MEETING: Next meeting will be March 7, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: ***Motion by Lewis, Second by Kostelic***, motion carried.