

CITY OF HARBOR SPRINGS
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING (WORK SESSION)
MINUTES 18 MARCH 2009

Chairman Jim Bartlett called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM in the Harbor Springs City Council Chambers, 160 Zoll Street, Harbor Springs, MI, 49470

1. Roll Call and Verification of a Quorum

Present: Jim Bartlett, Bill McCullough, Al Dika, Tom Graham Sr., Fred Rachwitz, Jane Ramer, Dick Schiller

Absent: Yvonne DeWindt, Keith McGlaughlin, Jim Offield

Also Present: Charles O'Neill; Harbor Light , Bryan Burley; Little Traverse Yacht Club, John Kohler; Bay Harbor Yacht Club, Laura Kors, Diana Stahl; Lee Corporation, Michael Esposito; Irish Boat Shop, Cliff Biddick; Irish Boat Shop, Al Hansen; City of Petoskey, Dave Lyle; Walstrom Marine, Pringle Pfeifer, Noah Fowle; Petoskey News Review, Michael Johnson; Harbormaster, Tom Richards; City Manager

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Bartlett noted that as this was a work-session meeting only, it would be appropriate for the minutes from the October 2008 meeting to be approved at the first regular commission meeting in June.

3. Public Comment and Correspondence

No public comment was offered.

4. Old Business

There was no discussion of old business

5. New Business

Chairman Bartlett expressed appreciation to all who were in attendance for this special meeting.

Bartlett explained that Little Traverse Bay had been considered as a possible additional location for a Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) weather monitoring buoy. He explained that the University of Michigan constructs, deploys and maintains the buoys that provide real time information about weather and currents. Similar buoys are already in place in Grand Traverse

Bay and Lake St. Clair. If feasible, the proposed location for the new buoy would be between Seven Mile Point and Nine Mile Point.

Bartlett stated that many boaters share a concern that the information from the nearest buoy (at Washington Island) doesn't accurately indicate the weather in and near the Bay.

He explained that U of M has a federal grant for the cost to build and deploy the buoy, but that the ongoing cost for deploying, retrieving and maintaining a new buoy, potentially \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year, would not be covered. He asked if there was interest in a cooperative effort to pay the future costs to have the buoy placed in Little Traverse Bay.

Discussion followed to clarify the following points:

- Financial support would be on a year to year basis
- The University would have responsibility for any liability for the buoy
- The buoy would provide a higher level of boater safety
- More precise cost projections were needed and should be available from U of M
- Maintenance costs for the Lake St. Clair and Grand Traverse buoys should be available
- Costs could possibly be allocated based upon a per-slip basis for the marina operators in Little Traverse Bay.
- In-kind contributions (storage, retrieval and deployment) may be considered in lieu of a direct cash contribution
- Weather data will be accessible by internet, probably not by telephone

Several marina operators indicated support for annual contributions at up to \$3,000 each for funding the project's ongoing costs. Some offered to respond at a later date.

Discussion followed regarding the need for input (and possible support) from the City of Charlevoix, Charlevoix Yacht Club, Boyne City Yacht Club and Grand Traverse Yacht Club.

Chairman Bartlett thanked all in attendance for their input and for the initial show of support for the concept. He said he planned to continue the discussions with the University of Michigan contact and to get more detailed information for the Commission for a future meeting.

6. Adjournment

With no further business, Chairman Bartlett adjourned the meeting at 4:45 PM.