

# **City of Alpena Harbor Advisory Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes 4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 6, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m.

Committee members present: Ed Retherford, Al Moe, Wayne Lewis, Tanner Kostelic, Don LaBarre, Steve Wilson, Jason Luther, Jeremy Winterstein

Committee members absent: None

Staff present: Shannon Smolinski, Rich Sullenger, Steve Shultz, Rachel Smolinski

Others present: Anne Gentry (DDA) Rich McTaggart (Thunder Bay Shores Marine)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Retherford, Second by Lewis, Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -MARCH 2, 2021 & APRIL 6, 2021 -Motion by Moe, Second by Retherford.

### **HARBORMASTER’S REPORT:**

DNR will do a fly over in July and take an updated picture of the marina to be used for marketing. Interviews are currently taking place to hire a full-time employee at the marina. Fish cleaning station is now open. Boards are still up on the windows to help from the water freezing with some of the cold nights we have had.

### **BUSINESS:**

1. Corrective Action Plan Status Update– Prattscape has completed a significant amount of landscaping at the marina. Thunder Bay Electric is currently working on the lights. Boats will need to be moved to gain access to some of the repairs. Pedestals for the lights are no longer being made and will need to be repaired. A standard pedestal cost is around \$1500.00. The City needs an updated list of what still needs to be repaired.

## 2. Marina Priorities

- Master Plan Development – Overview Survey Development

A walkthrough with the harbormaster, Rich, Eric and Niko from NEMCOG took place Tuesday at the marina. Eric stated there was some reoccurring themes that came up like maintenance and improvements as well as marketing. Shannon stated there was talk about breaking the survey into different sections of the marina. Questions could reference a google map and suggest that people list what amenities they would like to see in different areas in the marina. Rachel felt that question 3 would be hard to answer and suggested breaking out the question more and also how do you use the marina? Rachel added that she feels this should be two surveys to include local users and visitors. Some people will want paper copies of the survey to fill out and return or maybe information with a link to the survey or a QR code could be used. Eric is expecting to have all questions entered in survey monkey next week and would allow 30-60 days to gather information. It is important to get the survey pushed out to as many people as possible such as the Yacht Club, charter boat captains, radio, and newspaper. The marina is currently in the City's Recreation Plan but will not satisfy the Waterways rec plan requirements. Retherford stated that there used to be a program through the DNR where boaters would come and get free dockage but would serve coffee, plant flowers, etc. Shannon said is going to check into this with Lynnea. Rachel suggested the City's new Facebook page could promote the marina as well as calling the Alpena News and seeing if they want to do a story on the marina. Shannon is going to set up a meeting with the visitors' bureau to get the Marina's name out to people. Eric stated that the marina is known by so many different names and it would be a good idea to come up with one consistent name that would stick out. Everyone seemed to agree on Alpena Harbor.

3. Fresh Waves – Anne is hoping to have up to eight free-standing structures fabricated and installed in the grassy area near the large parking lot at the Alpena Boat Harbor on Harbor Drive. Applications are due May 25<sup>th</sup>. Meridian Contracting has provided a quote for installation and painting them should commence towards the end of July, around the Brown Trout Festival. DDA would be responsible for the maintenance on the structures. Structures are intended to be permanent but could be moved if necessary. Rachel questioned if there should a cause for concern with these getting damaged with people

walking through that area during Brown Trout. Anne does not feel that it would be an issue since they are in the ground and during Brown Trout a temporary orange fence goes up in that area. There is also extra security around for the Brown Trout Festival. There was some concern about damage to the bottom of them from trimming around them and water and salt damage. Anne stated she could talk to Todd from Meridian and possibly have him move them up so they aren't setting right on the ground. Anne added this is the first year trying this type of art. If there is problems or concerns maybe next year we will continue on with wall paintings like previous years. ***Motion to support the fresh waves project made by LaBarre, second by Wilson.***

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment provided

MEMBER'S COMMENTS: LaBarre attended a NOAA staff meeting this week and Jeff Grey expressed interest in partnerships with the sanctuary and would like to attend one of the HAC meetings, possibly next month.

NEXT MEETING: Set for June 3rd, at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Retherford, Second by Wilson.