

**TOWN OF BREMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 3, 2015**

Selectpersons present: Wendy Pieh, John Marsh, and Henry Nevins
Public: Jody Sprague; Jonathan Hull, Esq.; Bruce Poland, Melanee Osier-Gilbert, Robin Lailer, Bremen Harbor Committee; Jack Boak; Grace Rowland; Sharon Blackburn; Mary Rafter; Suzi King; Janice Olson, Doug Wood, Jack Clancy, Juanita Roushdy, Richard and Sharon Marchi, Alex Aviolo, LCN

The Selectmen's Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pieh at 4:30 pm.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to go into Executive Session at 4:31 pm pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E) for legal matters.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to go out of Executive Session at 5:00 pm pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(E) for legal matters.

The Selectmen's Meeting was again called to order at 5:05 pm.

The meeting began with Town Attorney Jonathan Hull stating that he obtained the Coast Guard information on the Columbia. It is an 81-foot recreational and fishing vessel, built in 1985, 116 net tonnage. The Coast Guard documented number is one digit off from the Bill of Sale supplied by Doug Wood. In 2004, Alan Curtis was the owner of the vessel.

Attorney Hull advised that bringing an abandoned vessel into Bremen without authority is a Class E crime. There has been no documentation received from the Town of Bristol, as was previously promised. Attorney Hull reiterated that the Columbia is an abandoned vessel on an illegal mooring.

Doug Wood stated that the Town of Bristol, together with the State of Maine, hired him to move the Columbia, and he is in possession of those documents.

Attorney Hull advised Doug that he had an obligation to get permission from the Harbor Master.

In Pemaquid Harbor, the Columbia was on a 10,000-pound anchor, and it moved around a lot. It took two anchors to hold the Columbia in the channel at Pemaquid.

Melanee Osier-Gilbert, Harbor Master, indicated she had spoken with the Portland and Rockland Harbor Masters who indicated that the mooring that the Columbia is presently on is not sufficient. It should be, at minimum, a 10,000-pound mooring. Melanee indicated that she was getting phone calls and e-mails daily, mostly concerning liability for the vessel. Attorney Hull stated that Doug Wood is liable for the vessel.

Bruce Poland felt the vessel had moved, which Doug denied.

The Harbor Master asked Doug how long it would be until he received the documentation for the vessel.

Selectman Pieh asked the Harbor Committee what they wanted to do. The Harbor Master said that, per the law, the vessel is illegal and needs to be removed.

Doug stated that the Selectmen have to the ability to show tolerance. Selectman Marsh asked if Bristol will let the boat come back there.

Doug stated that there is not an environmental issue as there are no fluids on board. He also stated that the Town of Bristol is the documented owner of the vessel at this point. He stated that it is horrendous that he has to find safe harbor in another town. He also stated that he could beef up the mooring.

Selectman Pieh told Doug that he needed to go through the process and that placement of the mooring for the Columbia at present may not be where the Harbor Committee wants it. Doug stated that the mooring is in the same place as the Noyce mooring was. He stated that our Harbor Ordinance has problems and has not been enforced previously.

Bruce Poland, Harbor Committee member, asked Doug if he was aware of the mooring specifications in the Ordinance. Doug stated that he hired a contractor to build the mooring and put his faith in him. He stated he could build additional moorings as needed. He said the future looks bright for the vessel and his business. He is looking for winter harbor until the vessel can be moved to Rockland.

Selectman Nevins stated that Doug is a Bremen fisherman in a fishing village and that he must go by the Town regulations and ordinances.

Melanee stated that the Portland Harbor Master told her that no vessel over 50 feet is put on a mooring in Portland.

Selectman Marsh stated that the Harbor Ordinance was violated and we must find a solution so everything is done right.

Melanee suggested taking the boat back to Pemaquid, and they can keep the vessel until it belongs to Doug. When Doug has obtained ownership, he can apply to bring it back to Bremen.

Doug indicated that the vessel is presently not in the public eye and is out of the weather. He said he put a lot of strategy into the location. Doug questioned the mooring regulations at Broad Cove. Attorney Hull stated that there is a different classification for commercial boat yards.

Melanee stated to Doug that he should have checked with her before bringing the vessel into Bremen. Doug indicated he would leave the mooring where it is after leaving Bremen with the vessel.

Selectman Pieh stated that until ownership is established, Doug cannot apply for a mooring in Bremen and that the mooring must be up to the Ordinance specifications. The Harbor Committee agreed with this.

Doug indicated that he needs to select the proper time in order to move the vessel. Melanee ask how much time he needs. Doug said he will look at the weather and was willing to do whatever. Bruce Poland stated that the weather could turn nasty quickly with ice as well.

Doug stated he needs a two-week grace period and that he has invested capital without ownership. Attorney Hull asked if he could move the vessel within 15 days and Doug indicated he could. Melanee said she would like it moved sooner, and Doug said he would move it as soon as possible.

Selectman Nevins asked, what if Bristol says no to bring the vessel back there. Doug stated they would not say no.

Melanee asked Doug if he would put another anchor down now. Doug advised that the person who set the mooring has now gone to Florida. Doug said he will get another rock soon. Selectman Pieh advised that he would then be in violation of setting two rocks. Melanee asked how Doug is going to come up with another rock. He stated Prock will dump it and then he will dive to attach it. Melanee asked why he did not do that in the first place. Doug advised that John Stolecki spoke with Dave Lash first.

Bruce Poland reiterated that the Columbia is here illegally. He stated that one spot that it could be safe may be at the Audubon. Selectman Pieh asked what happens in the meantime if we get a strong wind. Doug stated that he would personally guarantee the vessel's safety.

Melanee indicated to Doug that he is to get another anchor within 48 hours and that she must see the rock before it is set.

The Harbor Committee stated that Doug has 15 days to get the proper documentation for the boat and apply for a mooring or the boat must go back to Bristol. In the meantime, he has 48 hours to get another anchor.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board of Selectmen agreed to accept the recommendation of the Harbor Committee.

The Selectmen discussed meeting with the Heath Road bridge engineer in January to get an update on their progress.

The Hay Conservation and Recreation Area camp road is coming along. There will have to be a culvert or two put in.

The Conservation Commission indicated Mary Voskian would like to be on their committee.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to appoint Mary Voskian to the Bremen Conservation Commission.

The Selectmen agreed to meet on December 17th at 3:30 pm to go over the 2016 Town budget. The regular Selectmen's Meeting will follow at 5:00 pm.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to close the Town Center at 12:00 Noon on Thursday, December 24.

Doug Wood returned to the Selectmen's Meeting and stated that he opened up a can of worms with the Mooring Ordinance that no one knew existed. He stated that he was the first to be prosecuted and that proof of insurance was never requested of another boat owner. Doug indicated that he could not get insurance and that 80% of the boats in Bremen are not insured. Selectman Nevins asked how he would get liability insurance for the vessel. Doug stated that he has been attempting to get insurance but so far has no takers. He also stated that not being able to borrow someone's mooring in Bremen is a crazy restriction.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of 11/19/2015.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the Warrants of 11/27/2015 and 12/04/2015.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to adjourn at 6:37 pm.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

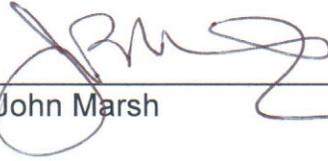


Kelly A. Clancy, Town Clerk

BREMEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Wendy Pieh, Chair



John Marsh



Henry Nevins