

Friends of Barnstable Harbor  
Minutes of Annual Meeting  
December 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 by President Avery Revere. In attendance were Secretary Peter Eleftherakis a number of other board members and a total of 18 members.

President Revere provided an introduction indicating the following:

FOBH received a \$1,000 donation recently  
President Revere attended a Coastal Resiliency Conference on 12/10/2015 and will post materials received there to the FOBH website

The minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were ready by Secretary Eleftherakis and were accepted as read by unanimous vote.

The Treasurers Report was read by Secretary Eleftherakis and were accepted by unanimous vote.

President Revere then began a discussion of issues that FOBH has been dealing with over the last year. These included:

**Harbor Management Plan** – A summary of discussions from a meeting held at Barnstable Marine on February 21, 2015 was provided. At that meeting, it was proposed that a full-fledged Harbor Management Plan might not be in the best interest of the variety FOBH members and that a Harbor Management Blueprint might be a more appropriate title for what the organization can strive to complete.

**Education Initiatives** – President Revere stated that Educational Outreach was one of her main areas of focus for the coming year and she outlined some of her ideas. First, she would like to follow-up on the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Eco Tours program that was initiated last year. A major stumbling block to this point seems to be locating a contact within the schools to help coordinate things and President Revere asked if any of those in attendance had ideas on how to bridge this divide. Andrea Higgins, naturalist for Eco Tours and an Audubon Educator, mentioned that she has organized a STEM Curriculum Plan and suggested that might be a place to start. Andrea indicated that she will talk with the Audubon Education Coordinator to see if they can help. It was also mentioned that Steve Heslinga, in his role with the Cobb Trust, might be a good person to contact.

**Commercial Shellfishing/Scudder Lane** – President Revere indicated that this is a complicated issue that she hopes FOBH can play a positive role in. Local residents have expressed concern at the growing using of Scudder Lane as a landing point for commercial shellfishermen in Barnstable Harbor. President Revere attended a meeting held in May 2015 where Natural Resources Supervisor Doug Kalwait was asked to contact commercial shellfishermen regarding the use of Millway Marina as an alternate offloading location. President Revere also attended two Shellfish Committee meetings and solicited input regarding using Blish Point as an alternate location for commercial shellfishermen in the harbor.

**Barnstable Harbor Marina Boat Slips for Charter Boats** – President Revere summarized an initiative that is underway to ensure that a number of town-owned slips in Barnstable Harbor Marina remain reserved for Charter Boats. Former Town Counselor Ann Canedy stated that the proposal has been presented to the Town Manager and awaits approval.

**Speakers Series** – FOBH sponsored two talks at Sturgis Library in the last year both of which were well attended. John Brink spoke about Sand Eels and Phil Kile spoke about the glaciers that formed Cape Cod with a particular focus on their impact in Barnstable Village and on Sandy Neck.

**Millway Bridge Condition** - President Revere and Secretary Eleftherakis met with a local engineer to review the condition of the bridge last spring and were assured that it was in good shape.

**Spring Clean-up** – A successful clean-up was held behind Barnstable Market last spring and preliminary discussions are being held regarding holding a fall clean-up.

**Christmas Stroll** – FOBH had a booth at the recent Village Christmas Stroll and candy canes were handed out.

The president then opened the discussion for input from attendees.

There was a question regarding a recent letter to the editor that warned of nitrate levels in Barnstable Harbor. Councilor Canedy reported that recent tests have indicated that is not a problem and that the town Water Resources Advisory Committee is also studying the issue.

A lively discussion was held regarding the important role that FOBH can play in providing educational opportunities for town school children focusing on the importance of our marsh resources. A number of ideas were proposed and will be followed up on for the next meeting.

President Revere introduced a document entitled Chatham Blue Pages that was produced by the Chatham Waterways Committee and suggested that it might be a model for a document that FOBH could produce on Barnstable Harbor. Rich French suggested that it might be a good opportunity to engage high school students to help in preparing such a document.

Councilor Canedy reported that Phase I of the outer channel of Barnstable Harbor dredging will begin on December 21, 2015.

President Revere solicited ideas from the members regarding promotional items and membership premiums. A number of suggestions were offered including, Hats, T-shirts, Pens and refrigerator magnets.

The meeting was adjourned sometime after 5:15 (didn't record exactly when).