

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH
Anchorage Advisory Committee
Mound House - 451 Connecticut Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
Wednesday, July 19, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Eckmann.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Members present: Douglas Eckmann, Ted Lawwill, Sam Lurie and John Wesley Nash.
Excused: Greg Holmes
Staff: Harbormaster Austin Gilchrist

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 21, 2023

MOTION: AAC Member Lurie moved to approve the minutes; second by AAC Member Nash.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

VI. STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

Harbormaster Gilchrist reported that since Mooring Field was being used as wet storage, staff were taking requests from other marinas for pump-out services one day per week. The Miramar ramp would be replaced, and the staff was exploring locations for amenities. He added that negotiations with Matanzas were ongoing. Leases would only be signed once an upland service provider with facilities was located. He noted that vessels were coming to the area to seek residency at the beach to use community outreach centers intended for residents. Harbormaster Gilchrist stated that staff contacted the DMV and other entities to determine how to prevent it.

Weed control and removing invasive species continued on the bay side and native ground cover was being transplanted. He indicated that the staff was referring vessels to other mooring fields and the pontoon boat was being rebuilt. Lee County was not interested in partnering with the Town regarding a pump-out station and the Town was working with Pumpout USA to research a system to reconfigure the hoses so the boat could pump itself out.

Harbormaster Gilchrist discussed enhanced enforcement and safety checks for liveaboards and noted that two adrift boats were returned to their owners. He addressed efforts to rebuild the inventory, signs were installed to the perimeters of the Mooring Field, including the expansion, and additional navigational signage would be ordered and replaced. Washouts on the bay side were being graded and filled.

Chair Eckmann noted that there were probably lift stations to use regarding pump-outs. Harbormaster Gilchrist replied that he did not think the information he was given was accurate and

would continue to investigate. He suggested that AAC members review state statute 327 concerning boating regulations.

AAC Member Lurie questioned the Town's responsibilities concerning the submerged land lease. Harbormaster Gilchrist responded that the Town was in contact with leaseholders, so they knew what was happening. Replacing the dinghy dock under the bridge was in the bidding process.

Chair Eckmann commented that the Town was exploring options for a permanent services provider before Ian and Harbormaster Gilchrist replied that the Town was researching options.

Harbormaster Gilchrist discussed inspecting the systems and determining whether the helical anchors had to be replaced. Thirteen systems were usable, six were out of compliance per the Coast Guard and seventy were out of compliance due to the hurricane. He described navigable areas surrounding the island and noted that the Town's jurisdiction was 1,000 feet out except for the federal channel that split off between the Mooring Fields.

Harbormaster Gilchrist explained how debris was being identified and removed from the canals and indicated that the depths were being surveyed. Grant opportunities for dredging were being researched.

VII. MEMBER ITEMS AND REPORTS

AAC Member Lurie brought up absences by AAC Member Holmes and AAC Member Nash questioned whether they could appear electronically. Chair Eckmann thought a physical quorum was required before electronic participation was allowed. A member of staff will double-check. Discussion was held regarding whether members had to live or own property on the island to be a committee member.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA – September 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: AAC Member Lawwill moved to skip the August meeting and meet on September 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.; second by AAC Member Nash.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: AAC Member Lurie moved to adjourn the meeting; second by AAC Member Lawwill.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Adopted October 18, 2023 with/without changes. Motion by Ian Wentley Nash
(DATE)

Vote: 6-0 Signature: D.H. Eckmann

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