

**PORT & HARBORS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
DATE: May 12, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Port & Harbors Advisory Board regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., at City Council Chambers, in Ketchikan, Alaska.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Lee Bethel	(Chairman)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Lunde	(Vice-Chairman)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Jai Mahtani	Council Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Steve Wilsie	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. James Rhodes	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Russell Cockrum	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Youngblood	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Tom Carruth	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ms. Linda Faber	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Excused

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Lee Bethel	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Lunde	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Jai Mahtani	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Steve Wilsie	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. James Rhodes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Russell Cockrum	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Youngblood	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Tom Carruth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Linda Faber	<input type="checkbox"/>

Harbor Staff Present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Wayne Phillips
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. James Wilson
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Craig Bisson
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. May Caguiat
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Gavin Buendia

CHANGES TO AGENDA:

None

MINUTES: MOTION was made by Board member Jay Rhodes to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of the Port and Harbors Advisory Board from May 12, 2026. MOTION SECONDED by Board member Steve Wilsie. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Mr. David Lethin – Bering Sea Crab Fishermen's Tour

Mr. David Lethin, owner of the Bering Sea Crab Fishermen’s Tour, addressed the Board regarding:

Electrical Billing Concerns

Reported a significant increase in electrical charges from approximately \$250–\$275 per month to approximately \$1,600 per month.

Expressed concern that electrical fees are based on vessel length rather than actual electrical consumption.

Stated that moorage fees are already based on vessel length and questioned the fairness of applying the same basis to electrical charges.

Noted that no direct notification was received regarding the billing change.

Safety Concerns on Tender Float 3

Requested consideration of installing a safety railing or barrier on the outboard side of Tender Float 3.

Reported multiple incidents over the years involving visitors falling into the water.

Expressed concern regarding accessibility and safety for elderly and disabled visitors.

Sewage Pump-Out Concerns

Requested repair and reinstatement of use of the smaller sewage pump-out station.

Reported approximately \$2,000 per month in pump-out costs using the larger facility.

Stated that his vessel had historically used the smaller pump-out station without issue.

Staff responded that:

The smaller pump-out station was not designed for vessels of the size and passenger capacity of the Bering Sea Crab Fishermen's Tour vessel.
Larger vessels are directed to use the larger pump-out facilities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Dogs on the Docks

Board members discussed ongoing concerns regarding pet waste and unleashed dogs within harbor facilities.

Discussion included:

Reports of dog owners failing to clean up after pets.
Existing borough leash law requirements.
Harbor staff efforts to remind users of their responsibilities.
Potential additional signage and educational efforts.
Possibility of requesting increased enforcement from Animal Protection/Code Enforcement.

Action Item: Staff will contact Animal Protection regarding enforcement and increased patrols within harbor facilities.

Harbor Ladders

The Board discussed alternative harbor ladder designs and safety improvements.

Topics included:

Review of ladder designs observed in Wrangell.
Consideration of wider ladders for improved accessibility and emergency use.
Installation of identifying flags to make ladder locations more visible.

Staff reported:

Research is underway regarding alternative ladder models.
Future recommendations will be brought before the Board.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Director presented updates on the following projects and operations:

Mountain Point and Knudson Cove Boat Launch

No significant changes.

Awaiting action from the Department of Natural Resources regarding property disposition.

Harbor Operations

Harbor Masters continue routine inspections and customer assistance.

Summer temporary Harbor Master positions have been filled.

Summer operating hours begin May 16, 2026.

Floating Breakwater - Bar Harbor North

Coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers continues.

Construction remains anticipated for late June or early July 2026.

A relocation schedule for affected vessels is being developed.

Berth Dolphin Upgrades

Staff evaluating project delivery options and contractor proposals.

Potential recommendations will be brought before City Council.

Port Passes

Readers and camera systems have been installed and are currently being tested.

Maintenance

Seasonal maintenance personnel have been hired.

Staff are engaged in spring cleanup activities.

Port Infrastructure Assessment

Engineering consultants are developing plans and specifications for cathodic protection, coatings, and pile wrap improvements.

Underwater inspections revealed no significant concerns below the waterline.

Additional engineering reports are expected in the coming weeks.

Promenade Inspection Inquiry

A Board member raised concerns regarding movement in portions of the promenade between Berths 3 and 4.

Action Item: Staff will inspect the identified area.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Electrical Billing Review
Tender Float 3 Safety Improvements

MOTION was made by Board member Rhodes to recommend that the City Council consider installation of a safety barrier or railing on Tender Float 3 area to improve public safety.

MOTION SECONDED by City Council member Mahtani. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; Board member Carruth and Lunde absent.**

Result: Motion carried unanimously.

The recommendation will be forwarded to City Council for consideration.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Board members:

Expressed appreciation to Mr. Lethin for bringing concerns forward.

Voiced concerns regarding the magnitude of the electrical billing increase and lack of notice.

Discussed transient moorage practices and harbor operations.

Encouraged members of the public to continue attending Board and City Council meetings.

Thanked harbor staff, port staff, maintenance personnel, and seasonal employees for their work.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no business the Port & Harbors Advisory Board adjourned at 7:57p.m.

Chair/Vice Chair Signature

Date