

Harbor Ordinance Workshop/Machias Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 27, 2026
At Machias Tele-Business Center

Attending: Select Board Jake Patryn, Ben Edwards, Carole Porcher, Mike Hinerman; Town Manager Sarah Dedmon, Finance Director Nicholas MacDonald, Paul Sylvan of the MVNO, and recording secretary Sharon Mack.

Meeting opened at 4:30 PM

Harbormaster/Select Board Jake Patryn presenting a comprehensive draft harbor ordinance. He stressed that the proposal was a living document to be amended and worked throughout the process. He said he has reached out to MDOT, the Coast Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers and other local harbormasters for guidance. He said he drew inspiration for the ordinance from similar regulations in Cutler and Roque Bluffs.

Jake Patryn went through each section of the proposal, outlining its purpose and details that included registration of moorings, mooring and anchorage requirements, penalties for boat/ship abandonments.

He stressed that decades-old moorings in the Kennebec River will be grandfathered and that he wants input on the ordinance from mariners and others both that live in and around Machias.

The ordinance would also create a Harbor Committee that would include at least 5 members, two of which should be Machias residents, and the duties of the Committee.

The Select Board acknowledged that many things have to happen before Machias has a working harbor, including dredging the bay and changes to the Rim Road Bridge. Jake Patryn said he has met with the Army Corps of Engineers who are willing to dredge the channel and the bay but MDOT would have to work with Machias regarding the bridge replacement.

Jake Patryn and the board determined that one more workshop should be held before the next Select Board's meeting on June 10, 2026.

The workshop ended at 5:27 p.m.