

April 16, 2018

Committee Chair, Councilor Pious Ali
Councilor Jill Duson
Councilor Kimberley Cook

CC: Julianne Sullivan

City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland ME 04101

Dear Councilors,

I am writing to provide comments concerning term limits for Portland appointees to the Harbor Commission.

My first comment is anecdotal, but it appears that the pool of citizen volunteers to board & commissions is getting smaller. My assumption is that time and family constraints determine availability – but another concern may be that by making board/commission decisions could expose members to favorable/unfavorable social media posts and potential litigation.

My point here is that the City needs seasoned and experienced board & commission volunteers to make good decisions in the best interest of all parties involved.

I have served on the Harbor Commission for three, 3-year terms – my feeling was my skills would benefit the Commission, but volunteering has been a continual learning experience.

To be brief, the Commission is charged with:

- 1) The safety and economic prosperity of the harbor
- 2) Regulation of highly educated & trained Ship Pilots and Docking Masters
- 3) Hiring & over-site of the Harbor Master including administrative staff and on-water deputies
- 4) Administration of 1000 recreational moorings
- 5) Permitting of harbor construction & dredging projects

The Harbor Commission is currently administrating a Brownfields Grant to examine underwater soil conditions around private piers in conjunction with in-harbor dredging and CAD cell disposal.

Additionally, the Commission coordinated a lobster relocation project ahead of planned maintenance dredging of the federal channel in 2013-2014.

Being a Harbor Commissioner requires specialized skill sets – marine construction, commercial maritime knowledge and administrative oversight.

A basic understanding of law and legislative process is also very desirable.

The Harbor Commission will be experiencing turn-over for 2018 in that one member and possibly both South Portland Commissioners are resigning along with Commissioner Dan Haley terming-out and myself in December of 2018.

The Commission, like any other organization, needs to transition in members carefully – having an entire Board step-down, or be termed-out in a single year would not serve the Harbor or Cities of Portland & South Portland.

I am willing to continue volunteering on the Board of Harbor Commissioners in my capacity as Treasurer after December 2018 – and I encourage this Committee to eliminate or extend term limits currently imposed on Harbor Commission citizen volunteers.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bert Jongerden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bert" being more prominent than the last name "Jongerden".

Bert Jongerden, Treasurer
Board of Harbor Commissioners
103 Revere Street
Portland ME 04103