

## Bronze mermaid sculpture taking shape at foundry

by Edward French

Eastport will soon join the list of places noted for their mermaid sculptures, as the bronze mermaid that will be placed on the Eastport seawall is now taking shape. The eighth casting of the different parts of the sculpture was completed at Dick Klyver's bronze foundry in South End on November 15.

When all of the parts are completed, they will be welded together. The sculpture then will be placed on a stone or cement base and placed on one of the rocks on the seawall just north of the fisherman statue, where it will overlook the breakwater and the bay. Klyver hopes it will be installed by next summer.

Both the historic review board and the city council have approved the placement of the sculpture on city property, but both the council, at a meeting in November 2010, and the board, at an earlier meeting, had reservations that the sculpture not be rendered too provocatively.

The latest casting was for the top third of the sculpture, which will be 32" high, although Klyver notes that the full length of the mermaid would be 6'.

At the outdoor foundry, the bronze is heated to 2150° F before being poured into the shell mold, which is preheated to around 1300–1500° F. The mold is made out of fused silica, with a slurry built up layer upon layer, Klyver explains. Having the foundry outdoors means any casting is dependent on the weather, and Klyver hopes some day to have it enclosed.

The project has been funded by George and Sarah Kurzon of Eastport and New Hampshire and Hugh and Edie Stubbins of Pembroke, who had approached Klyver about having a bronze mermaid sculpture made. Klyver notes that they believe the mermaid will help attract visitors to the city, as the Little Mermaid has done for Copenhagen.

Klyver notes that a new book is being published about mermaid sculptures around the world, authored by Philip Jepsen, who also has a website, <<http://mermaidsofearth.com>>, about the more than 100 mermaid sculptures in public settings in over 20 countries. Klyver says photos of the making of the Eastport mermaid sculpture will be included in the book.

Copenhagen's Little Mermaid is world famous and part of the Danish culture, being based on the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, but Jepsen writes on his website that the cultural heritage involving mermaids "spans millennia and many corners of the Earth, from New Zealand and Australia, through Asia, Greece, much of Europe, India, Latin America and North America and more."



POURING molten bronze into the shell mold for a section of the mermaid sculpture to be placed on the Eastport seawall are Bill Labbadia (left) and Dick Klyver. The casting was carried out at Klyver's bronze foundry in South End on November 15. (Edward French photo)

## Airport revenue diversion issue fuels tempers

by Lora Whelan

Tempers flared at the November 14 city council meeting when volunteer airport manager Steve Trieber and Eastport City Manager Jon Southern argued over whether the city was in compliance with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules about revenue diversion. Trieber cited FAA laws that govern how the city must account for revenues garnered at an airport that has been the recipient of FAA grants, with the specific issue of the wind blade storage revenue being in question. Southern explained that a verbal agreement with a FAA representative met that obligation but that there had been an agreement put in place by the prior city manager as well. Trieber explained that he had called the FAA representative in question, who said no such agreement had taken place.

Before the two men could come to verbal blows, Council President Bob Peacock cut them off and gave a run-down of the wind blade agreement with the port and Federal Marine Terminals. Trieber, however, reiterated that the council president was not "getting the point," which was that verbal agreement or not, the city was not in compliance with the FAA and needed to resolve the issue. Budget Committee Chair Jon McNerney supported Trieber's statement, explaining that the FAA has strict rules about agreement process. It is not a discretionary issue, it's a compliance issue, he said. A "verbal exclusion" is not valid according to the FAA's own rules, both men said.

Southern and Peacock said that the accounting practices used for the airport's revenue had been recommended by the auditor. With tempers heating up again, Peacock ordered the manager to meet with Trieber and himself on November 16 to call the FAA and hammer out the details. Trieber declined, and Airport Advisory Board Chair Ed Nadeau agreed to attend the meeting.

An additional airport accounting issue was brought up by Trieber. The credit card accounting system for the airport's fuel station was not charging the cards. The error was not caught for some time but has been fixed since the situation was discovered, Southern assured Trieber. The

city manager thanked Trieber for manually tracking down and calling those fuel station users who had used the credit card machine but had not been charged.

In a follow-up interview, Peacock says that the conversation held with the FAA representative Barry Hammer went well. Peacock, Southern, Nadeau and Traci Jamieson, the city treasurer, spoke on the phone with Hammer to present information and concerns. Peacock explains that Hammer "wanted to know how we account for the blade fund money." Southern notes that the funds are included in the airport budget under miscellaneous revenue. If the blade revenues were not used for airport funding then the section of airport property being used for the blade storage would need to be approved for exemption by the FAA. However, because those funds are being accounted for as airport revenue and are used for airport expenditures, Hammer felt it was a "non-issue," says Southern. Peacock says, "Ed and I looked at the books with Traci, how it's accounted for." He adds, "I asked Ed. He says that he is comfortable" with the results of the FAA conversation and the accounting set-up.

### Other business

In other action, the council approved a vendors and peddlers ordinance amendment fee schedule change, a zoning map change to adopt a Geographic Information System (GIS) format map and a liquor license application for the expansion of the Liberty Café.

Bids for three tax-acquired properties that had caused some confusion at the October council meeting have been awarded. The bids complied with the city's requirement for a 10% deposit amount and were the only bids received for the properties. The properties sold are 1 Jensen Street, 23-24 Mitchell Street and 1 Toll Bridge Road.

Code Enforcement Officer Robert Scott reported that he received three building permits and one plumbing permit for the month of October. Scott answered questions about the status of the Family Dollar store construction and explained that the signage for the site is governed by the Maine Department of Transportation

(MDOT), not the city's sign ordinance. Entrance and exit pavement cutbacks will be the same as those used by the former Irving station and store, with MDOT approval in place. Business owner Linda Godfrey suggested that the owner of the site, or the store, should be asked to enhance the gateway status of the site with plantings.

The police department received 45 calls-for-service.

The October 20 storm dumped seven inches of rain on the city and revealed a drainage issue in the downtown around Bank Square and the WaCo. Southern was urged by the council to resolve the problem as soon as possible. He is gathering bids for what he says should be a three-day project to build a culvert along the side of the restaurant.

Properties not maintained by their owners also raised audience concerns. An aluminum-clad residence on Water Street has already had loose siding cleaned up by the city, Southern said, because of the considerable danger the siding presents when caught by the wind. An abutting owner noted that the siding is continuing to loosen and cause danger. Ken and Denise Brown, downtown property owners, have repeatedly noted the dangerous condition of the small pier and Quonset hut on the water side of Sutherland Overlook Park. The recent storm "moved it about a foot toward Canada," they told the council. "It's endangering the boats" in the inner basin, they noted. Businessman Richard Clark redirected a lengthy council discussion about the residence problem back to the wharf. "The wharf is dangerous. Why can't we do the same thing as with the [aluminum-clad] building?" he asked. City attorney Dennis Mahar was asked to research and advise the manager and council on the statutory process to follow.

And last but not least in importance, Councillor Scott Emery noted that he had been discussing the island's deer population and bow-hunting problems and had been advised that if the island was turned into a game reserve there would be no hunting on the island other than that authorized by the city for culling purposes. His suggestion that the idea be looked into met with verbal support from the audience.

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