



Harbor Management Commission

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Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 22, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room A

1. Call to Order

Chairman Terry Stewart called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Essex Harbor Management Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Attendance

Members Present: Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Remote, Kit Schellens, John Senning, Remote, Terry Stewart

Absent: Dave Fasulo, Bill Herlihy, Paul Riggio, Brian Weinstein

Others Present: Rachel Smith, Safe Harbor, Remote

3. Approval of the May 2023 Meeting Minutes

The May 25, 2023 regular meeting minutes were reviewed.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the May 25, 2023 regular meeting minutes.

SECONDED: Kit Schellens, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning, **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

4. Public Comment: None.

5. Financial Report

Terry Stewart presented the May 2023 financial report on Bill Herlihy's behalf for the Liberty Checking, Public Access, and General bank accounts, with a total funds closing balance as of May 31, 2023 of \$53,154.41.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the May 2023 financial report as presented.

SECONDED: Kit Schellens, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning, **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Terry presented two invoices for approval; one for EHMC administrative support in the amount of \$157.38 and one from Safe Harbor for parts associated with maintenance and repairs of the harbor marks in the amount of \$1,653.67.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the invoices presented. **SECONDED:** Kit Schellens, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning, **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

6. Harbor Master Report

- Harbor and Cove Channel Mark Update

Terry shared Paul' Riggio's update on the Harbor and Cove channel marks. He and Rachel went out with Paul to make further adjustments. There has been feedback regarding the proper locations for the harbor marks compared with the past. Captains of vessels entering the Harbor will typically use their GPS plotters. All of the marks are being adjusted to correspond with the GPS plotter systems. We are required by USCG and the Army Corps of Engineers to set the harbor according to the chart. As many changes are being made as can be this year since the moorings have already set. The moorings will be pulled this Fall and final adjustments will be made next Spring to bring the harbor layout in total compliance with the USCG and the Army Corps of Engineers requirements.

Paul has asked that the Commission support the approach of having the harbor marks match the GPS locations on the electronic chart. Members were in agreement with this.

Jeff Going noted that the Bravo mark located off of the dock by Pettipaug is way off. Terry will check on this. Jeff also noted that wherever we put the marks, we have to make sure they are correct with Coast Guard aide to navigation locations.

Rachel is working on North Cove. John Morris, who lives in North Cove and put the marks in before the Commission took them over, has offered to assist Rachel with this. Rachel noted that Paul is still working on getting a couple of replacements possibly with smaller poles for North and South Cove to make it easier to get them into the ground. Terry will provide Rachel with John's contact information.

One new Mooring Permit Wait List application was received from Jan Beyen for the Meadows on June 13, 2023.

Mark Noonan submitted a Bushnell Access Wait List application on May 27, 2023 but did not make payment. He was informed that payment was needed by June 21, 2023. He did not make payment and his application was rejected.

One new Bushnell Access Wait List application was received from Michael Lopez on June 19, 2023. There are now 30 people on this list.

- Mooring Permit Policy Language Regarding Replacement

The Commission discussed the language that Paul and John Senning prepared to be sure people are aware that their mooring locations may be changed from year to year based on ever-changing marine conditions and differing boat characteristics. Concern was expressed that this language would preclude the past practice of having the opportunity to move up to a better location based

on seniority. That is not the intent of this new language. The Commission was in agreement with adding the new language to the Mooring Permit Policy.

- Bushnell Access Sabbaticals

The question of granting sabbaticals for Bushnell Access Permit Holders and Bushnell Access Wait List Applicants who are offered a permit but would like to take a one year “vacation” was discussed. There was consensus to adopt a sabbatical policy for Bushnell Access consistent with the Sabbatical policy for Mooring Permit Holders and Mooring Permit Wait List applicants.

7. Harbor Management Business

The COP for the rock pile relocation was expected last week but we still don’t have it. It is expected at any time. Once it is received, the rock pile relocation can go forward as soon as this summer.

Jeff noted that we have a new resident in Town, Kathleen Sealey. She just retired as a Professor of Biology at the University of Miami, has a PhD in marine biology, is considered to be an expert on coastal ecology and restoration, has a long list of accomplishments in that area, and knows how to make things happen. She is also very much up to date on Hydrilla. Kathleen has been added to the Ad Hoc Committee and is an asset that the Commission should be well aware of.

A COP application was received and shared with the Commission members for modifying an existing dock at 42 Crosstrees Hill Road. Since it is a modification, the Commission does not submit a finding regarding the application’s alignment with the Harbor Management Plan. However, we can comment on it. Terry noted that he thinks the height of the new pilings that are being installed which are 18 feet is way too high. When asked about it, Docko said they were being designed for a 100-year worst case scenario flood. Members were in agreement that the pilings are too high. Terry will contact Docko and ask that the height of the pilings be no higher than what DEEP allows for dock standards.

8. Town Public Access Points

Kit noted that Collins Lane needs trimming. He will contact Ryan Welch at Public Works.

Terry and Paul looked at the parking situation at Mack Lane. There is room for two vehicles to park there without infringing access to the neighbors’ driveways. There is not an issue at this time. They also looked at the dock at Mack Lane where there was concern with a boat tied up there that was longer than it should be. It was observed that if positioned properly it just fits.

Bob Ward reported by email on Bushnell Access. The Town has been contacted to clean up weeds and they have pledged to get to it soon. Rack reconfiguration was discussed with a volunteer construction manager, including adding side hooks to add 12 spots for kayaks after this season. Bob provided charts on ongoing data accumulation to determine if reconfiguration is net positive. He was thanked for his update and usage analysis.

9. Harbor Management Plan Update

John Guskowski, Bill Herlihy, Paul Riggio and Terry Stewart spoke last week with Marcy Balient, our DEEP contact for approving the Harbor Management Plan. The call reviewed Marcy's comments about our plan in light of her earlier site visit which gave her insight into the unique aspects of Essex Harbor. As a next step, the subgroup will meet at a date to be determined to review her latest recommendations, adjust the plan accordingly and schedule an on-side meeting with her to reach a final draft to be shared with the Commission as a whole. The update is getting closer to completion.

10. Correspondence

The Old Saybrook Harbor Management Commission has asked us to co-sign a letter they are sending to the Army Corps of Engineers because of concern they are hearing about shoaling at the mouth of the river. Jeff suggested that language be added stating another key reason for dredging would be for heavy barges coming in for the railroad bridge project. His suggestion was added and we agreed to co-sign the letter, along with The Old Lyme Harbor Management Commission. The letter was shared with the Commission.

11. New Business: None.

12. Adjournment

MOTION made by Jeff Going to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. **SECONDED:** Kit Schellens; **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning, **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy McLaughlin
Recording Clerk