

TOWN OF ESSEX
Harbor Management Commission



29 West Avenue • Essex, Connecticut 06426
Essex Harbor Master (860) 767-0032

Executive Board
Jeffrey Going, Chairman
Joseph Zaraschi, Vice Chair
Terry Stewart, Treasurer

Regular Members

John Senning
Earl Fowler

Alternate Members

Kit Schellens
Susan Malan

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 7:30 P.M.

The Essex Harbor Management Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2018 in Room A of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members

Jeffery Going, Chair
Earl Fowler
K Schellens
John Senning arrived at 7:35 p.m.
Kit Schellens, Alternate Seated
Susan Malan, Alternate Seated

Absent Members

Joseph Zaraschi
Terry Stewart

Ex Officio Member

Paul Riggio, Harbor Master

Staff: Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary

Others Present:

Cy Libby, Brewer Dauntless Shipyard & Marina
Doug Domenie, Brewer Dauntless Shipyard & Marina

Audience

There were eight audience members

1. Approval of March 22, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION made by K Schellens to approve the March 22, 2018 Minutes as presented; **SECONDED** by E Fowler; **Voting In Favor:** E Fowler, S Malan, K Schellens; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

No discussion.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Financial Report

J Going presented the Treasurer's report as of April 26, 2018:

Withdrawals:

- Clerk(s) Invoice #16 in the amount of \$1,024.14.
- Lighthouse Printing for Permit Labels in the amount of \$240.00
- Heather Nolan Refund in the amount of \$30.00

Deposits:

- None

Liberty Checking Account Balance a/o 3/1/18 - \$2,017.06.

Liberty Bank checking closing balance as of 3/30/18 - \$962.92.

Liberty Public Access Account Balance as of 3/30/2018 - \$981.82.

Liberty General Account Balance a/o 3/01/2018 - \$53,633.88.

Liberty General Account Balance a/o 3/30/18 - \$53,642.70.

Total funds a/o 3/30/18 - \$55,587.54.

MOTION made by S Malan to approve the April 26 2018 Treasurer's report as presented;
SECONDED by E Fowler; **Voting In Favor:** S Malan, E Fowler, K Schellens; **Opposed:** None;
Abstaining: None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

No Discussion.

J Going distributed the Online Mooring Monthly Statement covering the billing period of 3/1/2018 to 3/30/2018.

6. Harbor Master Report

P Riggio reported that the police boat will arrive in next two weeks.

At the March 22, 2018 HMC meeting, P Riggio suggested that the HMC allow Doug Domenie to maintain the current numbering system. D Domenie reported that he will not do organized numbering this year, and next year, he will clean up.

P Riggio reported the following:

- **Mooring Permits approved: 112**
- 1 Application under review – Krista Karch. P Riggio is awaiting documentation in her name and her Permit has not yet been approved.
- Inglis was removed from the wait list and offered a permit, however he did not complete the application.
- **Sabbaticals: 2**
- Levine, Street, McPherson, Glowac, merton have not yet renewed. The deadline was April 15, 2018 and reminders were sent on April 14, 2018.

P Riggio discussed the start up of a winter stick program with inspections every other year and winter sticks would need to be purchased by all mooring holders. A brief discussion ensued.

P Riggio stated that all inspections that we can do have been done.

7. Harbor Management Business

J Going introduced Malcolm Hill, Founder and Owner of Snowy Egret Wetland Services who provided a brief bullet point presentation on the invasive phragmite plant. M Hill stated that he worked for the DEEP wetland restoration unit for 12 years and he worked as a contractor for the DEEP for the last five years. M Hill stated that phragmite which is the most invasive aquatic plant originated from Asia in 1800's. The areas in which the phragmite have taken over serve as massive mosquito breeding areas and no wetland habitat will survive in the phragmite area. M Hill stated that it is our duty to reverse the process and one way to do so would be to spray herbicide specifically geared for phragmite, and the second method would be to cut the phragmite and do so annually every year thereafter. There are thousands of seed head on the top of each plant which will spread in the wind. They will also emit a toxin which poisons through the sunlight, other plants around it. Phragmite present a serious threat to native biodiversity. It replaces native plant species, reduces fish and wildlife populations and creates ideal breeding for mosquitoes. Dense, monotypic stands degrade the wetlands and coastal areas and reduce recreational value of water bodies for swimming, fishing and hunting. Once the phragmite take over an area, they stop the water flow and if water cannot get inland, fish will not survive and mosquito population will increase. Phragmite is also a massive fire hazard and burns high and fast. M Hill stated that the key is to cut down annually and therefore displace the phragmite. M Hill stated that he has worked with the Audobon, the State of CT, various municipalities and with private clients.

It was noted that Thatchbed Island is emassed with phragmite and M Hill stated that he could reach Thatchbed and eradicate the invasive plant.

There was a brief discussion on the necessity of obtaining permitting to work within the wetlands.

M Hill stated that mechanically cutting anything along the shore does not require permitting and he noted that the winter season is the best time to cut. By cutting it back will allow other plants to opportunity to grow up in its place.

K Schellens noted that the Phrag can be useful in that it will hold the ground in filtering out nitrates out of the river.

M Hill recommended Great Farm Meadows out of RI to come in and plant salt grass, etc in the areas where the phrag have been cut down.

M Hill recommended the services of Juliana Barret, Ph.D., Associate Extension Educator, Coastal Habitat Specialist and ecologist whose focus is conservation, restoration and enhancement of coastal habitats of Connecticut. She is also involved in climate adaptation with communities throughout Connecticut.

Capital Projects - SHIPP Grant Proposal Update

Keith Neilsen, PE, Docko Inc., Mystic, CT presented as related to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Connecticut Port Authority Grant which funds harbor surveys of navigational channels in the cove. K Neilsen presented a drawing of Thatchbed Island, referencing a numerical analysis of where there are problems. K Neilsen stated that from 1991 to 2012, 25% of thatchedbed disappeared at the south end. From 1991 to 2006, 50% of the width of thatchedbed disappeared and there was a breach in 2010-2012 and by 2015 the breach was substantially larger. K Neilsen stated that a possible explanation for what caused the breach could be attributed to the waves coming into the island from nor'easters or possibly boat wakes, both of which could be adversely affect the area. K Neilsen stated that he will place two flow monitors in the area for a period of 24 hours, perpendicular to the shoreline so as to obtain the flows in the proximity to the breach and hopefully get some idea as to what is causing erosion.

P Riggio noted that it could be flow or it could be wake and questioned if the sensors are being put in place too early in the season.

K Neilsen stated that he wishes to get the monitors out while river velocities are high. In a week or so, Docko will do a first run along the east face of Thatchbed and obtain 3D velocity factors, and do the cut sheets as described in the proposal, utilizing a drone.

Town Accessways

J Going reported that J Zaraschi has been working through Bushnell access storage system. Out of 75 or 80 boat permits, there are only one or two that have glitched their way into it and there has been minimal confusion on people looking at the website in that they are not sure if they want a storage permit or a mooring.

Town Dock Maintenance/Upgrade

J Going stated that about one month ago the request for proposals went out and that he met with 7 or 8 interested parties on site, at the town dock. None of the participants wished to provide a proposal but expressed a desire for specificity in detail. J Going stated that there has been progress on changing the scope of the project to reflect technical specifications as requested by potential contractors. J Going noted that the cost to change the height is not affordable and during low tide the dock is difficult to access for people getting off their boats. In order to raise the dock all of the pilings must be taken out which is a huge project and not feasible at this time.

J Going stated that he met with P Riggio who provided the technical language for the railing. The handrail is to coordinate with the Museum and will be fabricated from aluminum tubing which is on hand. The scope of the work involves removal of materials, decking, benching ladders, handrails and auto barrier. Strick Hyde examined the structure and he reported that all is in good shape. The handrail will be 33"-38" is standard height however it was decided to go with the commercial standard at 42". The new decking will blend into the Museum structure. The float is funky in design; 20' x 10' with two tapered sections and continuous flotation.

J Going reported that the Essex Park and Recreation Department has utilized recycled plastic park benches and he distributed a photo of a an 8-foot section of park bench that costs about \$500 and comes with a warranty. There is no stain necessary and the bench will be bolted down.

Audience member mentioned that the plastic decking is flammable and tends to get hot to the touch in the summer months.

J Going suggested purchasing a recycled plastic bench and trying it out on the dock.

P Riggio suggested a grey color for the bench.

MOTION by J Senning to authorize J Going to purchase a grey recycled plastic bench at a cost of \$500; **SECONDED** by K Schellens; **Voting In Favor:** K Schellens, S Malan, J Senning, E Fowler; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

- **Law Suit for Dredging Materials**

No Discussion.

8. Correspondence:

No correspondence.

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Adjournment

MOTION made by J Senning to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting which will be conducted on May 24, 2018, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room A, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT; **SECONDED** by; **Voting In Favor:** J Senning, K Schellens, E Fowler, S Malan; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary