

ESSEX HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION



**Town of Essex
29 West Avenue
Essex, CT 06426**

**Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 22, 2015
Meeting Room A**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jeff Going called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Essex Harbor Management Commission to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Attendance

Members Present

- Earl Fowler, Alternate
- Jeff Going, Chairman
- Wally Schieferdecker, Vice Chairman
- John Senning
- Terry Stewart, Alternate
- Walter Wiegert, Treasurer
- Joe Zaraschi

Ex Officio Members Present

- Paul Riggio, Harbor Master

Others Present

- Doug Domenie, Brewer Dauntless Shipyard & Marina

3. Approval of September 24, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The September 24, 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion: Wally Schieferdecker moved to approve the September 24, 2015 meeting minutes as written. Walter Wiegert seconded the motion. Those in favor: Wally Schieferdecker, John Senning, Walter Wiegert, and Joe Zaraschi; 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Financial Report

Treasurer Walter Wiegert reviewed the October 22, 2015 Treasurer's report.

Motion: Wally Schieferdecker moved to approve the October 22, 2015 Treasurer's report. John Senning seconded the motion. Those in favor: Wally Schieferdecker, John Senning, and Joe Zaraschi; Walter Wiegert abstained; 3-0-1 motion approved.

Three invoices were presented for approval:

- Betsy McLaughlin, Clerk - \$277.09 for October 2015 Clerk Services;
- Betsy McLaughlin, Clerk - \$25.51 reimbursement for Staples "Time Sensitive Document Enclosed" stamp;
- Betsy McLaughlin, Clerk - \$12.50 reimbursement for two USPS certified, return receipt nonrenewal letters.

Motion: Walter Wiegert moved to approve the invoices presented. Wally Schieferdecker seconded the motion. Those in favor: Wally Schieferdecker, John Senning, Walter Wiegert, and Joe Zaraschi; 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

6. Harbor Master Report

Nonrenewal letters were sent to Bob Dixon and James Carr for lack of use.

New Wait List Requests

- Derek Musgrave, Main, check dated 9/23/15
- James Carr, South Cove, check dated 10/20/15
- Mark Landow, Middle Cove, check dated 10/21/15

Notification of Winter Spar Installation: Joe Zaraschi

Paul received a note from Dr. Stephen Landow's son, Mark Landow, inquiring about renewing Dr. Landow's mooring permit in light of his recent passing. Paul advised him that the policy in this situation is to transfer to a surviving spouse only, not a son or daughter, and that it should either be registered in the name of the surviving spouse or Mark can apply for a mooring on his own. Accordingly and as noted above, Mark Landow has submitted a wait list request for Middle Cove.

Paul spoke with Mrs. Varano about Mr. Varano's mooring permit renewal in light of his passing. She subsequently informed Paul in writing of her decision to relinquish the mooring privilege for 2016.

Paul met with First Selectman Norm Needleman and Herb Clark regarding signage for the Middle Cove public access. It was agreed upon by the officials that they would post a sign at the crest of the hill by the barber shop that says "No Public Parking Beyond This Point." There was also conversation at the meeting as to whether the Harbor Commission wanted to think about making any improvements to this area such as bollards or a park bench.

Paul received a call on the evening of October 12, 2015 notifying him that two fishing boats were rafted to a mooring. He responded on the morning of October 13, 2015 and learned that the boats were owned by Stuart Litler and Chris Clark and were rafted to Mr. Dowie's mooring. The people on the boats told Paul that they had permission to use Mr. Dowie's mooring. Mr. Dowie was not present. Paul noted that it has been observed that Mr. Dowie's mooring has been used in this manner on other occasions and that he has rarely used the mooring himself. Mr. Litler and Mr. Clark will be issued warnings for the way they used the mooring, and Mr. Dowie will be sent a nonrenewal letter for the 2016 season due to the way his mooring has been used and his own lack of use during the 2015 season.

Paul and Jeff met with Mr. Ted Lahey, President of Essex Boat Works, about the use of the Essex Board Works moorings. Proper use of the moorings was discussed and clarified. A written summary of the meeting will be sent to Mr. Lahey for the benefit of everyone now and in the future.

Paul and Jeff also went to North Cove to look at the pilings that have been identified as a potential hazard to navigation. There are at least four that need to be addressed. Doug Domenie will take a look at the situation and have the pilings reset as needed. There was discussion about the ownership of the various pilings and the difficulty in determining who owns what. Paul will prepare letters to send to the known owners of the pilings that are a potential hazard to navigation.

John Senning expressed his safety and environmental concerns about the high speed of the jet skis in North Cove. He suggested that a speed limit be set if there isn't one and speed limit signs be posted if there is one in order to slow the traffic and protect the wildlife and sanctity of the environment. Discussion ensued as to how and whether this could be enforced.

Paul and Jeff also inspected the Meadows and have determined that there is room for more moorings at the Essex Boat Club and the Pettipaug Yacht Club, possibly four small ones and four large ones. The need for better organization of the placement of the moorings at Pettipaug was discussed and it was suggested that there needs to be a contact person at Pettipaug who is in charge of this. If that doesn't work, there needs to be a contractor who sets that anchorage. Concern was also raised as to whether concrete blocks are the right thing to have at the Boat Club and that they may need to think about going to something else when it's time to replace them that would be serviced by smaller machinery.

7. Harbor Management Business

- **Capital Projects:** None.
- **Town Access Ways:** No discussion.

8. Correspondence

None.

9. New Business

Jeff noted that John Senning's and Wally Schieferdecker's membership terms are up and that if they wish to continue, they need to speak with the Selectmen's office.

Jeff also noted that this would be the third year of the harbor mark conversion project and raised the question as to whether we want to purchase three more yellow marks this year. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

10. Old Business

- **Confiscated Vessels**

John Senning and Joe Zaraschi will coordinate an auction to deal with the confiscated vessels with the goal of getting it done by the end of the year.

- **Essex Code of Ethics Policy**

John Senning signed the acknowledgement sheet, which will now be submitted to the Town Clerk.

- **Pilings in North Cove – Potential Hazard to Navigation**

Discussed in Harbor Master Report above.

- **“J” Harbor Mark**

Cy Libby is looking into pricing for this.

- **Harbor Management Plan Update**

Jeff suggested that special meetings be held to work on the Harbor Management Plan update, and it was decided to hold special meetings monthly starting in January 2016. The first special meeting will be scheduled for January 14, 2016.

11. Adjournment

Motion: Walter Wiegert moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Joe Zaraschi seconded the motion. Those in favor: Wally Schieferdecker, John Senning, Walter Wiegert, and Joe Zaraschi; 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy McLaughlin, Clerk