

ESSEX HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION



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

**Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 26, 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

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

Ex Officio Members Present

- Buddy Hitchcock, Deputy Harbor Master
- Paul Riggio, Harbor Master

Others Present

- Doug Domenie, Brewer Dauntless Shipyard & Marina
- Betsy McLaughlin, Clerk
- Joe Sherlock, Kayak School Manager, Eastern Mountain Sports

Terry Stewart was seated for John Senning and was unseated shortly thereafter upon John Senning's arrival.

3. Approval of 1/22/15 Meeting Minutes

The January 22, 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion: Wally Schieferdecker moved to approve the January 22, 2015 meeting minutes. Walter Wiegert seconded the motion.

The minutes were discussed, and the following amendments were made:

No. 5, Harbor Master Report, delete “who we decided to give permits to” in line 5 of the 2015 Mooring Permit Renewal Update.

No. 9, New Business, Paragraph 5, Line 1, change “EMS” to “Eastern Mountain Sports.”

No. 5, Financial Report, Change “December 18, 2014” to “January 22, 2015” in both locations where mentioned.

Those in favor as amended: Wally Schieferdecker, John Senning, Walter Wiegert, and Joe Zaraschi; 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

4. Public Comment

Jeff Going suggested that we move the EMS School Use of Bushnell Access agenda item under Old Business to Public Comment.

Motion: Wally Schieferdecker moved to move the EMS School Use of Bushnell Access agenda item to Public Comment. John Senning seconded the motion. Those in favor: Wally Schieferdecker, John Senning, Walter Wiegert and Joe Zaraschi; 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

Joe Sherlock, Kayak School Manager, Eastern Mountain Sports (“EMS”) presented the details of a proposed plan to open an EMS kayak rental and instruction location in Suite 102 of the Soundings Building and putting racks and kayaks on Brewer’s property with access to Bushnell Public Access through an opening in the fence.

Questions and concerns related to the proposal were raised and discussed at length, including concerns about the current, safety, liability and a need for appropriate signage, program supervision, rescue methods, parking, and the impact of increased traffic. The program, if it goes forward, would run from May 23 to September 7, seven days a week, with a soft opening on May 2 and 3. Parking would be on the west side of the Soundings Building, and North Cove would be the primary area for training. Joe estimated having 2,000 people over the 60-day period, 100 people a day, and a maximum of 16 boats on the water at a time. The training program would be restricted to North Cove and not allowed onto the river. EMS plans to make a 3-year investment in the Soundings Building, and the need for periodic and timely review of the program, if it goes forward, was discussed.

Joe was asked to provide references from the two venues where he currently has a similar operation. Jeff noted that it our responsibility to manage the public access, and as a next step he will bring the proposal to the attention of the First Selectmen, Park and Recreation Commission, and Zoning by email to see if there any issues in their particular areas and whether review of the proposal by anyone else is needed. In general, the Commission’s feeling about the proposal is positive but due diligence needs to be done.

5. Financial Report

Treasurer Walter Wiegert reviewed the February 26, 2015 Treasurer’s report.

Motion: Wally Schieferdecker moved to approve the February 26, 2015 Treasurer’s report. Joe Zaraschi seconded the motion. Those in favor: Wally Schieferdecker, John Senning and Joe Zaraschi; Walter Wiegert abstained; 3-0-1 motion approved.

Walter presented one invoice for approval:

- Betsy McLaughlin, Clerk - \$269.08 for February 2015 Clerk Services;

Motion: Walter Wiegert moved that we pay the February invoice for Clerk Services. 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

Paul Riggio reported that we are 14 positions down on the wait list and calls are out to three more, which would bring us to a total of 17 people on the wait list who would have moorings for the 2015 season. If all the spots are taken, this would bring the wait list down to 16 people, which is the smallest wait list we have ever had.

He and Buddy Hitchcock have met with Cy Libby on the harbor layout and Paul will next review it with Jeff Going.

7. Harbor Management Business

- **Capital Projects:** None.
- **Town Access Ways:** None.

8. Correspondence

A COP was received from Angus McDonald for the Brewer Dauntless float and pilings removal, relocation and installation project, and a copy of the approval was received from DEEP.

9. New Business

None.

10. Old Business

Jeff Going asked everyone to review the Harbor Management Plan for updates and to start with the descriptive section where the harbor is described. This will be discussed further at another time.

Paul Riggio asked if the Brewer sabbaticals should be listed at the top of the wait list with the normal sabbaticals. It was suggested that as commercial moorings they are in a different category and to footnote them on the list instead.

Jeff noted that the cost for the buoys and reflective letting from Gilman is \$5,067.00.

Betsy McLaughlin noted that the Bushnell Park small vessel permit applications were mailed to last year's permit holders this week.

11. Adjournment

Motion: Walter Wiegert moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. John Senning 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