

ESSEX HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION



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

**Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 26, 2015
Meeting Room B**

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

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

Others Present

- Doug Domenie, Brewer Dauntless Shipyard & Marina
- Betsy McLaughlin, Clerk

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

3. Approval of 2/26/15 Meeting Minutes

The February 26, 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion: Wally Schieferdecker moved to approve the February 26, 2015 meeting minutes. 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 March 26, 2015 Treasurer's report.

Motion: Wally Schieferdecker moved to approve the March 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 three invoices for approval:

- Betsy McLaughlin, Clerk - \$269.08 for March 2015 Clerk Services;
- Gilman Corporation - \$5,067.00 for 3 buoys and 6 reflective markings;
- Lighthouse Printing - \$215.00 for 250 small vessel permit stickers.

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

Walter noted that he moved \$10,000 from the checking account to the savings account but will move \$5,000 back into the checking account at the end of the month in order to pay the Gilman invoice.

Jeff noted that he okayed payment of the Gilman invoice and that they have agreed to delay delivery of the buoys for us until we are ready.

6. Harbor Master Report

Paul Riggio reviewed the list of new moorings being placed in Main and Meadows for the 2015 season. A lot of progress has made in moving thru the wait list this year. Paperwork regarding the new mooring permit holders is being processed. Jeff noted that the wait list needs to be updated soon. This is in process and will be done as soon as all paperwork is completed.

Paul and Buddy Hitchcock are attending an eight-week statewide harbor master retraining program put together by the Waterford Chief of Police, who is also the Harbor Master for Waterford. The objective of the program is to open lines of communication between the Coast Guard and all of the other support forces, particularly at the local level.

Rob Schickel contacted Paul on behalf of someone who has an easement over someone else's property which gives them access to the water. They want to put a piling up in South Cove and Paul suggested a mooring instead. The Commission will need to take a close look at what the easement says if this project is presented.

Paul noted that someone has asked about a wait list for the Mack Lane dock.

Paul informed the Commission of proposed House Bill 6816 whereby Harbor Masters would fall under the control of the Connecticut Port Authority, whose charge if the Bill passes is to create more business and commercial traffic. The Bill was discussed and not thought by the Commission

to be in the interest of small towns. The Harbor Commission's goal is safe navigation and is thought by the members to be more appropriately aligned with DEEP.

Motion: Wally Schieferdecker moved that we send letters to our State representative and senator stating that we would like the Bill to be slowed down so there is more discussion, with emphasis on the duties concerning safe navigation, and that the Commission not be moved from DEEP to the Connecticut Port Authority as the Bill proposes. Joe Zaraschi seconded the motion. Those in favor: Wally Schieferdecker, John Senning, Walter Wiegert and Joe Zaraschi; 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

Betsy will send Jeff the link to the Bill, he will review the Bill and draft the letters from the Commission, and Betsy will distribute the draft letters to Commission members for review.

New Wait List Requests

- Steven G. Haines, Main, check dated 3/18/15
- Ben Falivene, Meadows, check dated 2/9/15

2015 Sabbaticals

Paul recapped the 2015 Sabbaticals as follows:

- William Campbell, Main
- Stephen Robertson, Main
- Bob Rosenberg, Main
- Edward Varano, Meadows

7. Harbor Management Business

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

8. Correspondence

A COP was received from Docko on behalf of Nancy Garlinghouse for a seawall and float retention project.

9. New Business

Joe Zaraschi will follow up on the Yes/No piling that has become tilted.

10. Old Business

Everyone received a copy of the email from Joe Sherlock, Eastern Mountain Sports ("EMS") which provided references in response to the Commission's request at the last meeting. The proposal for the EMS kayak rental and instruction location discussed. Jeff has talked to the Selectmen about the proposal and they have no issue with it.

Motion: John Senning moved to approve the request made by EMS for access to Bushnell Public Access to operate their kayak rental and instruction program with the caveat that the maps given to program participants indicate that the kayaks are not to go north or west of Heritage Cove and that the operation is to be kept within line of sight and stay out of Falls River Cove. Joe Zaraschi seconded the motion. Those in favor: Wally Schieferdecker, John Senning, Walter Wiegert and Joe Zaraschi; 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

Terry Stewart has heard that there may be another kayak rental activity related to the Connecticut River Museum and Cabela's, but this has not been brought to the Commissions' attention directly.

The Harbor Management Plan update project was discussed, and Joe Zaraschi described the edits he has made so far. Jeff Going asked everyone to review the plan before the next meeting with particular attention to the ordinance part of it.

11. Adjournment

Motion: Wally Schieferdecker moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Walter Wiegert 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