

ESSEX HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION



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

**Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 23, 2016
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
- Earl Fowler, Alternate
- John Senning
- Terry Stewart
- Walter Wiegert, Treasurer
- Joe Zaraschi, Vice Chairman

Ex Officio Members Present

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

Others Present

- Doug Domenie, Brewer Dauntless Shipyard & Marina
- Robert Edmonds
- Paige Lescure
- Cy Libby, Brewer Dauntless Shipyard & Marina
- Phil Miller, State Representative
- Wally Schieferdecker, Former Harbor Management Commission Member

3. Wally Schieferdecker Recognition

Phil Miller, State Representative for the 36th District, presented Wally Schieferdecker with a plaque in recognition of his years of service to the Harbor Management Commission. Congratulations were made all around.

4. Approval of May Regular Meeting Minutes

The May 26, 2016 regular meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion: Walter Wiegert moved to approve the May 26, 2016 regular meeting minutes. Terry Stewart seconded the motion. Those in favor: John Senning, Terry Stewart, Walter Wiegert, and Joe Zaraschi, 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Financial Report

Treasurer Walter Wiegert reviewed the June 23, 2016 Treasurer's report.

Motion: Joe Zaraschi moved to approve the June 23, 2016 Treasurer's report. John Senning seconded the motion. Those in favor: John Senning, Terry Stewart, and Joe Zaraschi, Walter Wiegert abstained; 3-0-1 motion approved.

Four invoices were presented for approval:

- Betsy McLaughlin, Clerk - \$288.20 for June Clerk Services;
- Betsy McLaughlin, Clerk - \$5.84 reimbursement for Staples purchase of batteries for recording device;
- Gilman Corporation - \$860.00 for the purchase of two rock marks;
- Brewer Dauntless Shipyard & Marina - \$288.18 for ground tackle for the two rock marks.

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

Walter noted that Liberty Bank will begin charging \$2.00 a month for paper statements and is offering the option to receive statements by email instead. The Commission was in favor of receiving email statements. Terry Stewart has consulted with Kelly Sterner, Finance Director, and she has no problem with this.

7. Harbor Master Report

It has been slow getting boats in the water this year. There have been a number of issues and a few things have been tweaked. We won't know until all the boats are in but some letters may need to be sent.

One mooring permit holder in the northern part of the harbor notified the Commission that their boat had been hit. Upon further investigation it turned out to be operator error.

The Connecticut River Museum has expressed concern that their two moorings and Dauntless' two moorings were moved this year. Paul stated that they have not been moved, and discussion ensued as to the proper use of those moorings. A letter will be sent to Dauntless and the Museum to initiate better communication and discussion about this.

Mooring permit holder Christopher Cole notified the Commission of his concern with the location of his mooring in light of the draft size of his boat. After Paul and Cy Libby reviewed the situation, the mooring was moved inward in the channel and should be fine.

Paul met with Essex Boat Works and discussed the use of their moorings. He told them that service moorings need to be used as service moorings and explained the proper use of service moorings. A letter will be sent to them confirming the proper use of service moorings.

There are some gaps in the Meadows, and it seems pretty clear that the spaces are not being measured properly. It is possible that there may be room for more moorings if the layout is done properly, and better control of that area is thought to be needed.

8. Harbor Management Business

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

Paige Lescure and Robert Edmonds were present to discuss the proposal that was reviewed by the Commission at the April 28, 2016 meeting for a driveway access through a small portion of the Mack Lane Public Access Way. Since that time a variance has been granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals and they are now hoping to ask us to consider this and make a resolution approving the right of way across the access way.

The proposal was discussed.

John Senning moved that the Commission send a letter to the Board of Selectman affirming our support of the proposal for improvements to the public access way and interpretation of the existing easement on the property.

The motion was discussed and John Senning amended his motion as follows:

John Senning moved that the Commission send a letter to the Board of Selectmen affirming our support of the proposal for improvements to the public access way and the Commission's support of an amended interpretation of the existing easement to allow it to include its use for means of ingress and egress to 36 Mack Lane. Terry Stewart seconded the motion. Those in favor: John Senning, Terry Stewart, Walter Wiegert, and Joe Zaraschi; 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

John Senning will help with the letter to the Board of Selectmen, and Paul Riggio noted that the use of stone and gravel for the driveway will cause an erosion problem.

There was discussion as to whether we should allocate a certain number of spaces at Bushnell Access for people who need access to their moorings. It was decided that if someone needs to access their mooring by storing a small vessel at Bushnell Access they should apply for a permit like everyone else.

Enhancements to Bushnell Access was discussed. Some pruning has been done but more work is needed.

Doug Domenie noted that there are three broken pilings tied up on the opposite side of the channel that are creating a hazard to navigation. Paul Riggio will address this by starting with DEEP to see who holds the permits. The pilings need to be removed regardless.

9. Correspondence

Notification from the Town of Essex was received regarding fiscal year 2015/2016 Encumbrance Requests. The fiscal year 2016-2017 budget approved at Town Meeting on May 9, 2016 was also received.

A Notice of Tentative Determination Statewide General Permit issued by DEEP, Inland Waters Resource Division, was also received for Water Quality Certification of state-wide general permits.

10. New Business

- **Bushnell Access Permit Request – Rector**

Joe Zaraschi presented the request from Paul Rector for an exception to be made to the 75 small vessel permit limitation at Bushnell Access. The request was discussed.

John Senning moved that the applicant be advised that his paperwork was not timely filed, that we cannot go beyond the 75 small vessel permit limit that has been set, and to advise him of the option of applying for the wait list. Walter Wiegert seconded the motion. Those in favor: John Senning, Terry Stewart, Walter Wiegert, and Joe Zaraschi, 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

Joe Zaraschi will advise Mr. Rector of the Commission's decision.

- **Buddy Hitchcock Reappointment as Deputy Harbor Master**

Terry Stewart moved to approve sending a note to the Governor asking for the re-appointment of Buddy Hitchcock as Deputy Harbor Master. John Senning seconded the motion. Those in favor: John Senning, Terry Stewart, Walter Wiegert, and Joe Zaraschi; 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

11. Old Business

- **Biosonic Bird Devices**

Jeff shared the feedback received from the email that was sent regarding the use of biosonic bird devices and Paul Riggio shared his research on the devices. There is an ultrasonic device that people can't hear, and there is a predator, which people can hear and is not recommended for marinas. There is one mooring permit holder who has been using the predator who upon learning about the issue has turned it off. This situation falls within Paul Riggio's purview as Harbor Master since it is a nuisance to the harbor issue.

- **Confiscated Vessel Auction**

John was trying to get the auction scheduled in May/June but it was delayed due to his schedule and the Marshal's schedule. In the meantime, he has found a less expensive way of dealing with this and is

trying to get clarification as to whether it applies to the Town of Essex as it does to other property owners. He will provide an update for the next meeting.

- **Harbor Management Plan Update**

No update.

- **Newsletter**

Jeff Going provided pricing and specifications for the printing of another newsletter and suggested topics were discussed. John Senning will provide a copy of the Stonington newsletter for the next meeting.

Motion: John Senning moved to allocate \$400.00 for the publication of a newsletter. Joe Zaraschi seconded the motion. Those in favor: John Senning, Terry Stewart, Walter Wiegert, and Joe Zaraschi; 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

12. Adjournment

Motion: John Senning moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Terry Stewart seconded the motion. Those in favor: John Senning, Terry Stewart, Walter Wiegert, and Joe Zaraschi; 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy McLaughlin, Clerk