



Harbor Management Commission

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Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 24, 2022, 7:00 P.M.
Town Hall Meeting Room A & Zoom

1. Call to Order

Chairman Terry Stewart called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Essex Harbor Management Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Attendance

Members Present: Jeff Going, Bill Herlihy, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning, Terry Stewart.

Absent: Brian Weinstein

Others Present: Dave Fasulo, Deputy Harbor Master, Liz Horan, Essex Yacht Club, Paul Riggio, Harbor Master, Bob Ward, Bushnell Access.

Bob Ward was present to discuss his recommendations for Bushnell Access signage and policy so the Bushnell Storage agenda item under Town Public Access Points was moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Bob's recommendations regarding Bushnell Access policy were discussed.

MOTION made by John Senning to not discriminate against a small vessel applicant if they do not have a boat at the time of application or its use during the season. **SECONDED:** Kit Schellens, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Kit Schellens, John Senning; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** Susan Malan; **Approved:** 3/0/1. **Discussion:** This will be on a trial basis and will be revisited next year if it is not working.

Bob's proposed signage for Bushnell Access was also discussed. It was suggested that less language would be better. Bob will revise accordingly.

Boat Recovery was also discussed. The retrieval fee is \$75.00.at owner's expense.

3. Approval of the February 2022 Meeting Minutes

The February 24, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the February 24, 2022 Regular meeting minutes.

SECONDED: Kit Schellens, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

4. Public comment: None.

5. Financial Report

Bill Herlihy provided the financial report for the Liberty Checking, Public Access, and General bank accounts, with a total funds closing balance as of February 28, 2022 of \$47,696.28.

MOTION made by Kit Schellens to approve the Treasurer's report for February 2022.

SECONDED: Jeff Going; **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Bill presented the invoice for HMC administrative support in the amount of \$220.12.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the invoice for clerk services in the amount of \$220.12.

SECONDED: Kit Schellens; **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

6. Harbor Master Report

Paul Riggio provided the following report.

No new mooring permit wait list applications have been submitted.

Mooring inspections will start next week.

- Bushnell Access Permit Renewals

The article from EHMC on Bushnell Access was published in the Spring Newsletter on March 9th. Nine wait list applications were submitted after that as follows:

3.15.22: Robbi Storms (2), Joanne Merola

3.16.22: Joanne Merola, Andrew Morrison, Alyssa Molinares, John G. Gallagher, Linda Neitlisbach

3.21.22: Cynthia Truszak

The small vessel renewal process is in its final phase. Of the 77 permits in 2021, 60 renewed. The remaining 17 permits were offered to wait list applicants in the order that they appear on the wait list. Thirteen applied, four did not. Continuing down the list the next four spaces were offered to applicants. The 76 applications and renewals submitted to date have been approved and permit numbers assigned. Permits will be mailed on March 27. There is one incomplete application pending resolution for Margaret Tuttle who has been told she will lose her opportunity for a permit and lose her position on the wait list if not completed by today.

- **FOI Request**

Paul received a request from the Essex Yacht Club for a list of names and contact information for mooring holders. He spoke with Maria at Town Hall (our FOI Agent) who suggested that a letter from Essex Yacht Club be sent to Maria under FOI requesting the names, addresses and emails of all mooring holders.

Dave Fasulo noted that this is the first year that commercial providers (versus permit holders) are required to drop moorings in the Meadows.

Liz Horan inquired as to who is inspecting the Safe Harbor Moorings and Jeff raised a concern as well. Paul will talk with Cy Libby about this and get back to everyone with an update.

Harbor Management Business

- **Thatchbed Envirotube Project COP**

The Ad Hoc Committee has submitted a pre-submission consultation form through Docko for the installation of Envirotubes to contain future dredging spoils. The HMC needs to determine if the project is consistent or inconsistent with our Harbor Management Plan. The project was discussed. It was determined that the project is consistent with our Harbor Management Plan.

MOTION made by Jeff Going that the project is consistent with the Harbor Management Plan. **SECONDED:** John Senning. **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion

- **Dredging COP Request**

Coastline Consulting is overwhelmed with work so there is no update at this time.

- **Hydrilla Working Group Update March 7th event at Town Hall**

No one was able to attend the invasive species talk on March 7th so there is no update at this time.

- **Transient Visitor Information Website**

Dave Fasulo reported that the link for “Visiting Essex by Boat FAQ’s on the HMC website is live and easy to edit.

- **Out of Town Yacht Club Moorings**

Paul received a request from the Shennecossett Yacht Club for an Essex Harbor mooring for their members to use. We have never had a request from a club outside of town before. The request was discussed. It was decided not to approve this request as it would require changes to the regulations and we don't have the infrastructure to support it.

8. Town Public Access Points

Collins & Nott Lane: Kit asked some clarifying questions.

Scholes Lane: Susan reported that everything is okay.

Foot of Main: Susan noted that buses are there all the time. Terry will talk with the Connecticut River Museum about this.

John Senning noted that everything is everything is okay at Mack Lane and also thanked Ryan Welch for shrinking the size of the turnaround.

9. Harbor Management Plan Update

The edits have been completed and John Guskowski will assemble a final draft for us to look at. This will also need to be sent to CORP and DEEP.

10. Correspondence: None.

11. New Business: None.

12. Adjournment

MOTION made by Jeff Going to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. **SECONDED:** Kit Schellens; **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy McLaughlin
Recording Clerk