



Harbor Management Commission

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Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 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 (Remote), Kit Schellens, Terry Stewart, Brian Weinstein (Remote)

Absent: John Senning, Member, David Fasulo, Deputy Harbor Master

Others Present: Cy Libby, Safe Harbor (Remote), Paul Riggio, Harbor Master

Bill Herlihy was seated for John Senning.

3. Approval of the January 2022 Meeting Minutes

The January 27, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the January 27, 2022 Regular meeting minutes.

SECONDED: Susan Malan, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Bill Herlihy, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, Brian Weinstein; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0. **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 January 31, 2022 of \$48,055.18. This includes the commercial renewal fees received for the 2022 season in the amount of \$10,390.00 which are itemized in the report.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the Treasurer's report for January 2022. **SECONDED:** Kit Schellens; **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, Brian Weinstein; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** Bill Herlihy; **Approved:** 4/0/1. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Bill presented the invoice for HMC administrative support in the amount of \$298.71 dated February 17, 2022 and an invoice from Betsy McLaughlin in the amount of \$90.20 as reimbursement for the purchase of pre-stamped envelopes for the small vessel permit mailing.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the invoice for clerk services dated February 17, 2022 in the amount of \$298.71 and the invoice from Betsy McLaughlin in the amount of \$90.20 for the purchase of pre-stamped envelopes for the small vessel permit mailing. **SECONDED:** Kit Schellens, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Bill Herlihy, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, Brian Weinstein; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

6. Harbor Master Report

Paul Riggio reported that there are no new updates to the wait lists since the last meeting.

The Bushnell Access small vessel permit renewal period begins March 1, 2022, as per the schedule.

He noted that he and Cy Libby have laid out the harbor on paper. They are feeling much better about the spacing this year. There are a total of 5 over 50' for the test program. They have taken the entire outside row (to the East) of the Middle Main Anchorage and set that row up to be dedicated to this test program. That way they are not mixing any other moorings in the test program area.

Paul reviewed the inspection report from Safe Harbor Dauntless in the amount of \$1,566.51 plus tax if applicable for maintenance of the yellow harbor marks, which matches the quote reviewed and approved at the last meeting.

7. Harbor Management Business

- **Follow Up on Rock Pile Remediation & Dredging**

Jeff Going reported that the Army Corps of Engineers extended the previously expired approval for projects in Connecticut. This allows for approved projects to move forward to include the Ad Hoc Committee's ongoing work with Thatchbed Island.

He also reported that DEEP responded to the Ad Hoc Committee's Thatchbed COP with questions. The Ad Hoc Committee has responded.

- **Dredging COP Request**

Jeff presented a quote from Coastline Consulting & Development, LLC for permitting services for Essex Harbor Channel Dredging. During discussion, Jeff indicated that Coastline Consulting was the only bid we received. He mentioned that Docko was not able to respond due to staffing issues on their end. Jeff explained that Coastline Consulting's quote was in line with preliminary numbers previously provided by Docko. Discussion followed. Terry will send everyone a copy of the quote.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to accept the proposal for dredge permitting services from Coastline Consulting & Development, LLC to move forward with Task 2.0 of the proposal, which is the Request for Sampling & Analysis Plan for Thatchbed Island, in the amount of \$3,925.00. **SECONDED:** Kit Schellens, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Bill Herlihy, Kit Schellens, Brian Weinstein; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** Susan Malan; **Approved:** 4/0/1. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

- **Hydrilla Working Group Update**

Terry Stewart noted that there is an invasive species talk sponsored by the Essex Garden Club at Town Hall on March 7th from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. that will include hydrilla, the weed that poses the threat of taking over the harbor. This is an opportunity to learn what the State of Connecticut is thinking in terms of remediation. Jeff Going and Kit Schellens will try to attend.

- **Transient Visitor Information Website**

Dave Fasulo has done a great job of assembling information for people visiting Essex by boat. All that is needed are pertinent pictures and then to turn it over to Alyson Finnegan at Town Hall to publish on the Town website.

8. Town Public Access Points

Bob Ward has agreed to continue as the “Mayor of Bushnell” to oversee Bushnell Access and needs to be reappointed.

MOTION made by Bill Herlihy to reappoint Bob Ward as the “Mayor of Bushnell.” **SECONDED:** Jeff Going, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Bill Herlihy, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, Brian Weinstein; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Susan Malan asked if we had received a request for a zone change for the boat house at the Foot of Main. The boat house has been sold, and the new owner has requested a zone change. This is on the agenda for the Planning & Zoning meeting on March 1st at 7:00 p.m. HMC has not been notified of this and Terry Stewart will follow up.

9. Harbor Management Plan Update – Old Lyme Working Draft

Terry Stewart noted that the update is 90 – 95% complete. One more session is needed to complete the edits of the plan. We have been able to obtain a copy of the working draft of the Old Lyme HMC update. John Guskowski is reviewing it to see what might have application to us. Terry also noted that he and Kit Schellens had worked on the definition of lifts, and he shared with everyone Old Lyme’s approach on lifts. The date of the next workshop is to be determined.

10. Correspondence.

- **COP Update – 198 Hemlock Drive**

We have received a COP update for 198 Hemlock Drive on their efforts to renovate an existing permitted dock.

11. New Business

Cy Libby is on the Amtrak Committee for the Connecticut River Bridge Replacement project. They meet quarterly and the last meeting was last week. He reported that they are tentatively looking to start construction on the bridge between Old Saybrook and Old Lyme in 2023 with the work taking three to four years. The next Committee meeting is in May and he will provide an update after that.

12. Adjournment

MOTION made by Jeff Going to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. **SECONDED:** Kit Schellens; **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Bill Herlihy, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, Brain Weinstein; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy McLaughlin
Recording Clerk