

ESSEX HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
29 West Avenue
Essex, CT 06426

July 26, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jeff Going called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Essex Harbor Commission to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE

Jeff Going, Chairman
Wally Schieferdecker, Vice Chairman
Joe Zaraschi
Buddy Hitchcock, seated for John Senning

Ruth Hockert, Clerk
Doug Domenie, Dauntless Shipyard
Joel Severance
Grant Westerson, CMTA
Officer Paul Kenefick
Corporal Russ Gingras

Motion – Wally Schieferdecker moved to rearrange the agenda for this evenings meeting Putting 9 and then 7 B after Public Comment, Joe Zaraschi seconded 4-0-0 motion approved unanimously

9. Maintenance dredge of the Connecticut River

The discussion was open by the statement that keeping the river open to vessel traffic is very important. Grant Westerson explained that the U.S. Army Corp had moved the channel a number of years ago because the eastern side of the river is easier to maintain. The western side receives most of the soil deposits.

Joel Severance stated that a number of high level individuals are putting together an argument to go before the U.S. Army Corp regarding “commercial” business in the river. He explained that approximately 4 years ago a CT Maritime Commission (as part of DOT) was formed because the Harbor Master’s Association pushed to have a dredging advocacy because recreational boating was not well represented. Joel explained that Army Corp regulations state that there is only one commercial enterprise on the river and that is the delivery of fuel oil to Middletown. The goal would to override the regulation

Joel said in 2007 barges could only come up the river ½ full with strict consideration to tide and wind direction. He explained that in 2010 Moran Company, (commercial barge company) notified NRG that they will not come up the river any more to bring fuel oil to the power plant. Since 2007 the sandbars have come up 3 feet.

The Coast Guard ice breaker the BALLARD needs 6.6 feet of water to come up the river. There are places currently in the river that are not that deep.

It will become difficult to get construction barges up the river to do railroad bridge repair, cruise ships will not be able to run their trips, and no cruise ships would mean an end to the Eagle Fest.

The need is to build a case for the recreational boat business as commercial ventures.

Grant Westerson states that every recreational business adds to the whole recreational picture on the Connecticut River. He believes the Corp only listens to congressmen.

Joel Severance is working on the emergency management component with respect to the river. He wants revenue numbers and a loss of income to the Town if recreational boating starts a decline.

- The service and repair industries should be considered commercial
- Cruise boats should be considered commercial
- Publicity , legitimate journalism is needed
- State legislative people need to get involved

Grant Westerson will provide information from the CMTA to Joel Severance.
Joe Zaraschi will get involved for the Commission.

7. HARBOR MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Update Harbor Management Plan – Review Ordinances

Officer Paul Kenefick and Corporal Russ Gingras came to this evenings meeting to speak about the problem boats this summer, and how making a few changes to the wording in the Harbor Plan would make the enforcement of the Plan ordinances and writing tickets easier. Officer Kenefick spent a number of hours talking and working with Paul Riggio the harbor Master as well as reviewing the Harbor Management Plan to have the right tools to deal with the boat that was anchoring in the harbor and the boat that was tying over night. Officer Kenefick distributed a red-line copy of the harbor Management Plan and reviewed changes that he believes would help enforce the ordinances. It was explained to Officer Kenefick that the Commission had not decided whether to pursue making changes to the Plan as it involves review by the DEEP, the U.S, Army Corp and then would have to go to a town meeting for approval by the public. The initial Plan took over 10 years to write and get approved by all involved agencies. Jeff Going has been in contact with DEEP regarding the Essex Harbor Management Plan and the minor changes the Commission would like to make.

Officer Kenefick and Corporal Gingras explained that t6hey do not write a lot of tickets, understanding that the town business want the transients to come to Essex, They see their role more as an educational one, talking to the transients and public regarding policies. The officers also explained that if the police are writing a “state” offence ticket the fines go to the state, where as a “town” ticket, especially if the wording was proper could have the funds go to the Harbor Management Fund. The Selectman’s Office would have to create parking/marine town ticket language and ordinance.

The Commission will keep Officer Kenefick and Corporal Gingras informed regarding the Commission's progress in making changes to the Harbor Plan.

3. MINUTES –June meeting

**Motion – Wally Schieferdecker moved to approve the Minutes from the June meeting with one correction, change “okay” to “plan” in the motion language in item 10; Joe Zaraschi seconded;
4-0-0 motion approved unanimously**

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

In Walter Wiegert's absence Wally Schieferdecker reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the Commission.

**Motion – Joe Zaraschi moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Buddy Hitchcock seconded
4-0-0 motion approved unanimously**

**Motion – Wally Schieferdecker moved to pay the two submitted invoices, Hydro Data \$ 2900.00 and the clerk the new fiscal year rate \$ 286.65; Buddy Hitchcock seconded
4-0-0 motion approved unanimously**

6. HARBOR MASTER REPORT

The commission received a letter from Eric Bierrie stating that he is giving up his mooring.

Wait List updates

Bill Robinson inadvertently dropped off list, put in correct position

Theresa Douglas – dropped from Wait List 2012, reports she never received renewal due to change of address.

**Motion – Wally Schieferdecker moved to put Mr. Robinson in his proper position on the list and to add Theresa Douglas to the bottom of the list, Buddy Hitchcock seconded
4-0-0 motion approved unanimously**

Add Corey Manero to Meadows List 22 ft sail

Add William Garrity to Meadows List

Lou Davidson has not provided the required information to the harbor Management Commission so will not be issued a mooring permit.

Robert Douglas, who came and pleaded with the Commission to keep his mooring this spring after not being offered one for failure to meet the 50% rule (his boat never went in last year) has not yet put a vessel on his mooring this year.

7. HARBOR MANAGEMENT BUSINESS
A. CAPITAL PROJECTS/FUNDING

Rock Pile Removal update

The Commission has reviewed the three proposals submitted by Coastline, Docko and McDonald-Sharpe.

**Motion- Wally Schieferdecker moved to accept Coastline's proposal to do the permit application and after the permit is received, the Commission will decide on the extra services to follow the scope of work as detailed, Joe Zaraschi seconded
4-0-0 motion approved**

C. TOWN ACCESS WAYS

D. SMALL VESSEL REGISTRATION

Joe Zaraschi wants to put notices on vessels that do not have any stickers and to give individuals two weeks to get the stickers or the vessels will be removed.

In response to the Clerk's two questions

1. No trailers are allowed at Bushnell Park
2. A 17foot tandem Kayak may go on the rack

8. CORRESPONDENCE

OLD BUSINESS

22 Rackets Lane dock application, Murphy
The Pratt application will come in next month

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion – Wally Schieferdecker moved to adjourn at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Hockert, Clerk