

TOWN OF ESSEX  
**Harbor Management Commission**



29 West Avenue • Essex, Connecticut 06426  
Essex Harbor Master (860) 767-0032

**Executive Board**  
*Jeffrey Going, Chairman*  
*Joseph Zaraschi, Vice Chair*  
*Terry Stewart, Treasurer*

**Regular Members**

*John Senning*  
*Earl Fowler*

**Alternate Members**

*Kit Schellens*  
*Susan Malan*

**Unapproved**

**MINUTES**

**Special Meeting**

**Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 7:30 P.M.**

The Essex Harbor Management Commission conducted a special meeting on Thursday, November 29, 2018 in Room A of the Essex Town Hall.

**Attending Members**

Jeffery Going  
Joseph Zaraschi  
Earl Fowler  
Kit Schellens  
Terry Stewart  
Susan Malan, Alternate seated for John Senning

**Absent Members**

John Senning

**Audience**

No audience members.

**1. Harbor Plan Update**

J Going stated that the concept in undertaking the update of the Harbor Plan which has passed DEEP review, is to annotate existing conditions as compared to the original plan which was drafted in 1989, and to add materials and information to existing conditions, i.e. clubs, access, employment, etc. J Going noted that the updated verbiage in the draft Plan before members this evening is as a result of ongoing discussions over a period of several meetings.

J Going stated that the purpose of the annotated version is to serve as a reference for comparison with the original Plan and a 30-year marker reflecting the changes that have occurred. J Going stated that the purpose of the Harbor Plan update is to change goals and objectives in the area under the regulations.

Members reviewed and discussed the Harbor Plan page by page and suggested proposed changes.

It was suggested that each section that has been amended is to reflect an amendment date.



Members discussed elimination of language that is no longer relevant, changes in map references to reflect updates, and consultation with the DEEP for explanation on the current water situation. References to Thatchbed Island and notation related to the phragmite which were eradicated in 2000 when the DEEP undertook an effort to eradicate and the newer invasive species that created and continues to result in excessive recession. Discussion on the number of boating clubs and yacht clubs and comments on the need to differentiate between boat and yacht clubs. Discussion on changes in public access as related to the available number of public access points. There are currently 11 designated public access points. Discussion related to boatyards and marinas, marina berths which need to be updated to reflect the current status. References to “Brewers Chandlery” is to be now known as Safe Harbors.

J Going noted that there are 90 commercial/support moorings. There are 121 private moorings including north, middle and south cove. There are 8 additional slips on Pratt Street that are privately owned. J going noted that we will leave it the way it is and just add an “Update”.

Members briefly discussed other forms of ground tackle that are currently being used.

It was noted that the vegetation report dates to 1943.

J Going stated that he will take the comments and issues as suggested on pages 1-13 under Existing Conditions and he will clean up and edit and provide a clean copy to members.

J Going briefly discussed the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) which is a network of 29 estuarine areas – places where freshwater from the land mixes with saltwater from the sea. NERRS was established across the nation for long-term research, education and coastal stewardship. The reserves are a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the coastal states and territories. The NOAA’s office for Coastal Management is responsible for administering the reserve system. Each reserve is managed on a day to-day-basis by a lead state agency or university with input from local partners. The mission of the reserves is to practice and promote coastal and estuarine stewardship through research, and education using a system of protected areas. In an effort to track long term changes in estuaries and coastal areas the Estuarine established a system-wide monitoring program. The state-wide monitoring program collects a variety of data that includes, water quality, weather conditions and habitat changes. J Going stated that the Estuarine Research Reserve is submitting a proposal to NOAA by the end of this month for which it is anticipated that results will be available in the next 1-2 years.

**MOTION** made by E Fowler to adjourn the special meeting at 9:32 pm to the regular meeting which will be conducted on December 20, 2018, Essex Town Hall, Conference Room A, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT; **SECONDED** by S Malan; **Voting In Favor:** J Zaraschi, T Stewart, E Fowler, K Schellens, S Malan; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 5/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stella C. Beaudoin, Recording Clerk