



Harbor Management Commission

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Executive Board

Essex Town Hall

Jeffrey Going, Chairman 29 West Avenue Joseph Zaraschi, Vice Chair.

Essex, Connecticut 06426 Terry Stewart, Treasurer

Telephone: 860-767-4340

Fax: 860-767-8509

Regular Members

John Senning

Earl Fowler

Alternate Members

Kit Schellens

Susan Malan

Ex-Officious Members

Paul Riggio, Harbor Master

David Fasulo, Deputy Harbor Master

Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting, Thursday, May 28, 2020, at 7:00 P.M.

ZOOM MEETING- INVITE LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81398932891?pwd=dzYxN3lYcWh4TEtGMiRNcHI2REg3dz09>

MEETING ID: 813 9893 2891

Meeting Password: 108493

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1. **Call to Order** - The Essex Harbor Management Commission conducted the regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom teleconference platform.

The Harbor Commission Members and attendees announced themselves. Attendees were asked to please identify themselves for the record prior to making any comments.

2. Attendance:

Attending Members

Jeffery Going

Susan Malan

Terry Stewart

Joseph Zaraschi

Absent Members

Earl Fowler

John Senning.

Kit Schellens

Ex Officious Members

Paul Riggio, Harbor Master

3. Approval of April 23, 2020, Meeting Minutes:

MOTION made by Terry Stewart; to approve the April 23, 2020 minutes as presented; **SECONDED** by Susan Malan; **Voting in Favor:** Joe Zaraschi Terry Stewart, Susan Malan; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Financial Report:

Terry Stewart, Treasurer provided reports on the following: April 2020: Deposits included mooring permit renewals, online mooring deposit for the month, and transfer from saving deposit. **Total Funds---a/o 4/30/20: \$35,031.61**

MOTION made by Joe Zaraschi to approve the Treasures Report as presented. **SECONDED** by Susan Malan; **Voting In Favor:** Joe Zaraschi, Susan Malan; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** Terry Stewart. **Approved:** 2/0/1. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Invoices:

- Clerk Invoices: Invoice #39 from the Town of Essex – Kristin Gleason \$148.96; Elizabeth McLaughlin \$14.51. Total: \$163.47
- HS Plaut Environmental Company- Spring Deployment of buoys and rock markers Total: \$1600.00
- Essex Printing Invoice Total: \$123.00

MOTION made by Terry Stewart to approve the three invoices as presented; **SECONDED** by Joe Zaraschi; **Voting In Favor:** Susan Malan, Terry Stewart, Joe Zaraschi **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

6. Harbor Master Report:

Paul Riggio provided the following Essex Harbormaster Report. It was mentioned to the Commission that the moorings are in place and ready for holders. At the last meeting there were 94 permits approved. Since then, they offered permits to Ehlemeyer, Baker, and Robertson, all in the Main Harbor. Robertson has been approved, bringing the permits to 95. The Commission is waiting for documentation from Baker, and Ehlemeyer submitted a waitlist application instead of a mooring permit application. Paul Riggio spoke with them, and they will be resubmitting. Paul Riggio mentioned he would reject the waitlist application submitted in error and refund the \$10 payment. The deadline for Baker and Ehlemeyer is 5/29/2020. Paul Riggio went through the permit waitlist and mentioned that there are upcoming dates of 4/2021 applicants that are now on the waitlist. There is currently one

North Cove applicant, and the applicant will be offered a mooring, also that all the North Cove channel markers are now in place.

David Fasulo said the meadows are all inspected and that the Essex Boat Club and dinghies are down there and are accessing moorings through the boat club. Pettipaug Yacht Club is currently closed, but they are allowing access to mooring no dinghy storage on the property at this point. Paul Riggo and David Fasulo said they would get permission from the Essex Boat Club and the Pettipaug Yacht Club to post COVID-19 signage in the area. It was mentioned since both clubs are private property, the Commission will need permission to post signage.

Paul Riggio mentioned the permit waitlist decreased. Jeff Going suggested that there should be a form that is needed notifies a person when their mooring has been pulled, where it is located, and at their choosing, if they want to inspect it to have ready for official inspection for the springtime. There is a concern about possible protests of mooring holders and says a form for documentation of any mooring pulled will be proof for both parties to understand what is being done. Paul Riggio expressed his concerns for this process, perhaps being a lot of work to have to connect with people, suggested a mass email to customers might be efficient. It was suggested that Safe Harbor can send an invoice to mooring holders for pulling their mooring, all the Commission will do is make a note of who is inspecting. Paul Riggio asked Cy Libby his thoughts, and he thinks a separate piece of paper with a mooring invoice apart from the bill to make it more visible.

Further conversation was about pros and cons of not having an official mooring holder form.

Harbor Management Business

• Town Access Ways/Bushnell Access

Jeff Going reported that the new marks for the North Cove channel are well done and easy viewing. However, one of the waterfront property owners on Riverview Road disapproved of the marks and could not understand why the HMC installed them. First Selectman Norm Needleman responded to the complaint along with Jeff. It was pointed out that the cove is a public waterway and complaints of boaters and kayakers getting stuck and HMC was asked to take over the channel marking. HMC has used the recent hydrographic survey, along with other data to use these aids to help people navigate. HMC will review the markers and their locations. Buoys could not be used because their position varies with the tides and this channel is very narrow. Cy Libby offered to take Jeff and Paul Riggio on a boat ride to help evaluate the situation.

Bushnell Access Way: Joe Zaraschi said six people on the waitlist since the last meeting. It was clarified that portable toilets cost increased by about \$10 a month because of proper sanitizing protocols that the State of CT issued.

Jeff Going received a comment from a person who lives on Little Point Street about the new bench and some new stone and landscaping at this

site. The Town Public Works did the bench installation and the grading. The concern was the stone work might make her launching a kayak more difficult. It is not truly a smooth boat launch site.

Guest Terry Lomme commented on the Novelty Lane public access neighboring his property. This year's float is chained to his bulkhead and he noticed some kids jumping onto the float, then climbing the ladder that is rotting. He expressed his concern and mentioned liability issues and asked HMC to move the float away from his bulkhead. Paul Riggio said he was there last week and saw what Terry was talking about. Paul will go with Jeff and Cy Libby to evaluate at low tide. It was suggested that HMC replace the ladder with one like those used on the town dock.

- **Lawsuit for Dredging Materials**

There was no new information for the Dredging Materials Lawsuit.

8. Correspondence None.

9. New Business

Cy Libby gave an update that there is a plan that was released mid-May 2020 to replace the aging railroad lift bridge that spans the Connecticut River between Old Lyme and Old Saybrook. The estimated \$400 million project, proposed by Amtrak, would construct a new bascule bridge 52 feet south of the existing structure. This project is set to start in 2024 but could be sooner if finances are in order.

10. Adjournment

MOTION made by Susan Malan to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 pm to the next scheduled meeting, which will be conducted on June 25, 2020, at 7:00 pm. **SECONDED** by Terry Stewart; **Voting in Favor:** Joe Zaraschi, Terry Stewart, Susan Malan; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Gleason
Recording Clerk