



Harbor Management Commission

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Meeting Minutes- Regular Meeting

June 24th, 2021, at 7:00 P.M.

This meeting was made available to the public via Zoom.

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Terry Stewart welcomed everyone to the Harbor Management Meeting. Members and attendees are asked to identify themselves for the record before making any comments.

2. Attendance:

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

Absent Members: Dave Fasulo.

Audience In Person: First Selectman Norm Needleman, Doug Dominie, Keith Neilson.

Terry Stewart recognized former Chairman Jeff Going for his contributions to the Essex Harbor Management Commission over the last 30 years.

3. Approval of May 27th, 2021, Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: made by Jeff Going to approve the May 27th, 2021, meeting minutes as presented; **SECONDED:** Earl Fowler; **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Earl Fowler, Kit Schellens; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

4. Public Comment:

First Selectman Norm Needleman commended the Essex Harbor Management Commission for its work. He described the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to assess next steps associated with remediating Thatchbed Island, removing the Commission from being directly involved.

Terry asked for and obtained the Commission's support for Jeff Going to be the Commission's liaison with the Committee.

5. Financial Report: Terry Stewart provided reports on the following balances as of the end of May 2021.

Withdrawals:

Town of Essex Clerk Invoice #51 \$335.86

Online Mooring Overpayment \$563.40

Deposits: Online Mooring \$30.50

Transfer from Savings \$500.00

Liberty Checking Account Closing Balance---a/o 5/31/21 \$651.29.

Total Funds Balance----Total Funds---a/o 5/31/21: **\$45,149.28**

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. **SECONDED** Kit Schellens; **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Kit Schellens, Earl Fowler; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Invoices:

Clerk Invoice #52. Total from the Town of Essex: \$167.79

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the invoices as presented; **SECONDED** by Earl Fowler; **Voting in Favor;** Jeff Going, Kit Schellens, Earl Fowler; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

6. Harbor Master Report:

Paul Riggio provided the following Essex Harbormaster Report.

Mooring Permit Wait List: New Since the Last Meeting

Mooring Permit Waitlist:

Frank Notaro, Main, 5.26.21

Robert Rosenberg, Main, 6.3.21

Peter Martin, North Cove, 6.4.21

Steve Snyder, Main, 6.12.21

Small Vessel Wait List:

Bill Dow, 5.11.21

Henry White, 5.23.21

David Larson, 5.28, 21

David Larson, 5.31.21

Christine Rogers, 6.4.21

Jan Beyen, 5.4.21

Mare Rosenbaum, 6.5.21

Brianne Porcelli, 6.11.21
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Betsy suggested that the commission schedule a phone meeting with OLM in July 2021 to make sure things in place for renewal season.

Other items:

On 6/18/2021 Betsy received a call from Dave McDermott who reported seeing a boat and a young family run aground just north of his house in the marked channel. Cy Libby felt that we should not mark the North Cove channel above Dave McDermott's home as there is very little water up there.

Terry asked how boaters could be warned about proceeding farther up the channel." "Paul said he would look into how best to warn boaters venturing further into the Cove.

Terry mentioned Online Mooring continues to show report inaccuracies. Terry stated that he would invite Online Mooring to an upcoming meeting to get more direct answers if there is no resolution by the next meeting. Paul also indicated this year's renewals through Online Mooring were extremely complicated.

7. Harbor Management Business:

• **Town Public Access Points:**

- Storage at Bushnell is full for small vessels. Susan Malan asked if there is a limit for kayaks per household. Jeff Going said he would check with Betsy to confirm. Susan noted that some vessels did not have stickers on them. Susan asked for clarification on what the protocol for this. Terry suggests that Bob check with Joe Zaraschi on how to alert the correct personnel about their permit stickers.

• **Harris/Docko Revisited:**

- Keith Neilson from Docko presented revised plans for pile reduction and relocations, stone wall repair, and capped outfall pipes, as well as a turbidity curtain. Concerns of the length of the dock, permits were discussed. Terry will find out from DEEP what existing docks in Middle Cove have permits.

MOTION made by John Senning to table the Roger Harris dock application to the next meeting; **SECONDED** by Kit Schellens; **Voting in Favor:** John Senning, Kit Schellens, Earl Fowler, Jeff Going; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

- **Harbor Plan Update**

- **Lift Definitions and Policies:** Terry and Kit shared their draft Lift Definitions and Policy. Bill Herlihy recommended adding Marine Railways as another type of lift. Jeff Going recommended the new policy, once adopted, be included in the plan vs. being an understanding among the commission. A decision to adopt the policy will be made at the next meeting.

Terry shared what the Old Lyme Harbor Management Plan states for allowable docks as an example of listing specific details for allowable docks in comparison to the more subjective description in the current Essex plan. The commission felt we should consult with DEEP on their language and guidelines as a next step. Terry and Jeff will reach out to DEEP on this.

Also, Norm Needleman suggested that John Guskowski in Town Hall might be able to help the commission with updating the HM plan.

8. Correspondence:

Terry shared a Harbor Maintenance Dredging Project Statement of Work describing the project approval process being reviewed by the Essex Yacht Club. Doug Domenie also shared Safe Harbor's separate dredging plans that involve depositing dredging spoils on the north end of Essex Island.

9. New Business:

- **Boating Infrastructure Grant:** Doug Dominie explained this is an annual grant. Doug said Safe Harbor will apply for the grant to fund the dock plans for Essex Island. Terry told commission members there is a deadline for questions of July 19th, 2021. He also said he informed Essex Yacht Club, the River Museum, and Essex Boat Works about the grant.

Terry asked Paul if there were potential areas where the Commission could use the grant. Paul felt, if anything, it would involve expanding the town dock but felt this was not a critical need at this time.

10. Adjournment:

MOTION made by Jeff Going to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Kit Schellens ; **Voting In Favor:** Earl Fowler, Jeff Going, Kit Schellens; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, July 22nd, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Essex Town Hall, Conference Room A, 29 West Avenue, Essex, CT.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Gleason- Commission Recording Clerk.