



Harbor Management Commission

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Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 28, 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), Terry Stewart, Brian Weinstein

Absent: Dave Fasulo, Deputy Harbor Master, Kit Schellens, John Senning

Others Present: Paul Riggio, Harbor Master

Bill Herlihy was seated for Kit Schellens and Brian Weinstein was seated for John Senning.

3. Approval of the June 2022 Meeting Minutes

The June 23, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the June 23, 2022 Regular meeting minutes. **SECONDED:** Brian Weinstein, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Bill Herlihy, Susan Malan, Brian Weinstein; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **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 July 28, 2022 of \$42,014.85.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the July 28, 2022 financial report. **SECONDED:** Brian Weinstein. **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Brian Weinstein; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** Bill Herlihy; **Approved:** 3/0/1. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

The invoice that was received from Docko, Inc. in the amount of \$3,335.55 for the Thatchbed Island Envirotubes project for dredging has been given to Maria for First Selectmen Needleman and the Finance Committee's attention. There is funding for this.

Bill presented an invoice for HMC administrative support in the amount of \$214.46.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the invoice for HMC administrative support. **SECONDED:** Brian Weinstein; **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Bill Herlihy, Susan Malan, Brian Weinstein; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

6. Harbor Master Report

Paul reported that it has been a very difficult year fixing the harbor in light of what we were left with after Cy Libby's quick departure in the Spring. Rachel Smith and Matt Beer from Safe Harbor have been doing their best to work with Paul and Liz Horan from the Essex Yacht Club to take care of the needs of the harbor. Things are not perfect but progress is being made. Paul stressed that it is paramount that we have a good working relationship with our partners and work with them as new people are groomed into this position. We gain nothing by being critical of their efforts and gain everything by being positive and working together as a team. Safe Harbor has had multiple problems with their barge this year and that has been a factor as well.

Paul was notified by Joe Zaraschi on Tuesday that there are boats in the harbor that are too close to his mooring and that he has been waiting patiently to have that addressed. Neither Matt nor Paul were aware of this issue before this notification.

Paul noted that Liz Horan took it upon herself to move the D harbor mark. She has been told by Paul that she is not to do this and that only Paul or Safe Harbor can do this. The issue has been resolved.

Jeff Going noted that harbor mark D is still way out of position and G, H and J are out of position as well. He showed Paul pictures demonstrating this and the issue was discussed. Paul will look into this further. Jeff stressed the fact that an HMC representative needs to be on board when the markers are installed and to be sure this is included in the annual RFP

Toby Dunn requested a Sabbatical from this year's mooring permit by letter dated July 21, 2022 due to a fall that resulted in surgery. Paul asked the Commission if they would grant a sabbatical under these circumstances which would be consistent with what we have done for other sabbatical requests due to a medical issue.

MOTION made by Susan Malan to grant a Sabbatical for Toby Dunn. **SECONDED:** Jeff Going, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Bill Herlihy, Susan Malan, Brian Weinstein; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Bushnell Access Wait List Applications

Brenda Bernardi had submitted a wait list application in June but was unable to make online payment. Payment was processed manually for her and she was added to the wait list, Position 32, 6/5/22.

6/24/22: Heidi Sandling
7/3/22: Ben McGuire
7/3/22: Joshua Janson
7/19/22: Jim Stafford
7/19/22: Randy Stafford
7/22/22: Jennifer Howell
7/23/22: Jessica Belloni
7/23/22: Damon Belloni
7/25/22: Julie O'Connell

Mooring Permit Wait List Applications

7/10/22: Carl Caruso, Meadows
7/26/22: Nicholas Smith, Main

It was agreed at the last meeting to recommend a “No Swimming” sign for the Town dock. It has been confirmed that this works for the Town of Essex from an insurance standpoint and Ryan Welch and the Town crew will have that installed. It was noted that there is still an issue with siltation there and the Town engineer will look into this. Any work to resolve this may require a permit and could take two to three years.

Paul noted the volume of calls received from visitors asking how long they can tie up at the Town dock because they want to have dinner in Essex.

7. Harbor Management Business

Jeff Going reported on the rock removal/relocation project. Connecticut River Dock and Dredge is planning to get in touch with DEEP to come down to get the okay for them to use the barge and allowing for the fact that it may bottom out. They are now looking at September or so after Labor Day for the work to take place when there is a reduction in river traffic. Jeff has been asked to stake the two rock piles. Everything else has been staked. Jeff had submitted photographs in June which were rejected. It has been requested by DEEP that this be studied by a botanist and photos taken to see where the tubes will sit and the area affected by the tubes. Jeff thinks this can be done by the weekend.

It is still expected to take five to six months before we get a response to the Sampling Plan from USACE.

Terry Stewart noted that DEEP has been very responsive to our queries about dock renovations we have seen and reported to them. They issued a Notice of Non-compliance for the dock renovations at 183 Saybrook Road.

Photos were sent to DEEP showing the work being done at the Foot of Main/Dickinson Boat House. DEEP has confirmed that this is an existing dock renovation and it is permitted.

Two COP applications have been received from Docko, Inc. One is to reinstall a previously authorized floating dock at 13 Clark Lane; the other is to reconfigure an existing floating dock system at the Connecticut River Museum. At Jeff's suggestion, Terry confirmed with the Museum that they have no intention of establishing overnite docking. Safe Harbor said their projects would occur after the hauling season and most likely in the December-January timeframe. Two other COP applications were received from John Lust for the improvement of a permitted travel lift well at SHM Essex Island and for a dredging operation where they want to put spoils at the north end of Essex Island. Terry has given these to Doug Domenie and Matt Beer at Safe Harbor as they did not receive them. These COP's are for our information only and no action is needed on our part.

8. Town Public Access Points

Bushnell Access: Susan Malan reported on behalf of Bob Ward that there are still some open spaces and the stump is still there. Thanks to Bob for his oversight there.

Brian Weinstein has offered to assume oversight for some of the access points. He will assume oversight for Turtle Creek, Foot of Main, and Little Point Street.

9. Harbor Management Plan Update

We are still waiting to hear back from DEEP and ACE on our latest Harbor Management Plan submission. Terry has pinged them for a response. We will use the updated plan until we receive any suggestions or changes from them.

10. Correspondence: None.

11. New Business

Terry had prepared and shared with the Commission an annual HMC report to be included in the Town's annual report. Members provided feedback, and this has been submitted to the Town.

Jeff noted that the Annual RFP for the annual servicing of navigational aids and float docks for next season be ready for the Commission's review at the next meeting. Betsy has prepared and will share with the Commission prior to the next meeting.

12. Adjournment

MOTION made by Jeff Going to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. **SECONDED:** Brian Weinstein; **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Bill Herlihy, Susan Malan, Brian Weinstein; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy McLaughlin
Recording Clerk