

ESSEX HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION



**Town of Essex
29 West Avenue
Essex, CT 06426**

**Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 28, 2015
Meeting Room A**

1. Call to Order

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

Jeff Going noted that he would be taking the meeting minutes in Betsy McLaughlin's absence.

2. Attendance

Members Present

- Earl Fowler, Alternate
- Jeff Going, Chairman
- John Senning
- Walter Wiegert, Treasurer
- Joe Zaraschi

Ex Officio Members Present

- Buddy Hitchcock, Deputy Harbor Master

Others Present

- Doug Domenie, Brewer Dauntless Shipyard & Marina
- Tom Klin, Trustee, Connecticut River Museum

Earl Fowler was seated for Wally Schieferdecker.

3. Approval of 4/23/15 Meeting Minutes

The April 23, 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion: Joe Zaraschi moved to approve the April 23, 2015 meeting minutes as written. Walter Wiegert seconded the motion. Those in favor: Earl Fowler, John Senning, Walter Wiegert, and Joe Zaraschi; 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Financial Report

Treasurer Walter Wiegert reviewed the May 28, 2015 Treasurer's report.

Motion: John Senning moved to approve the May 28, 2015 Treasurer's report. Earl Fowler seconded the motion. Those in favor: Earl Fowler, John Senning and Joe Zaraschi; Walter Wiegert abstained; 3-0-1 motion approved.

Walter presented four invoices for approval:

- Betsy McLaughlin, Clerk - \$269.08 for May 2015 Clerk Services;
- Connecticut River Dock & Dredge - \$1,200 for supply and installation of two piles and re-drive Yes/No marker;
- Brewer Dauntless Shipyard & Marina - \$3,045.08 to reset harbor marks and docks, set up new harbor marks, and repairs;
- Computer Signs of Old Saybrook - \$91.89 for rock buoy decals;
- United States Post Office - \$286.20 for stamped, imprinted envelopes.

Motion: Walter Wiegert moved to approve the invoices presented. Earl Fowler seconded the motion. Those in favor: Earl Fowler, John Senning, Walter Wiegert and Joe Zaraschi; 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

6. Harbor Master Report

Chairman Jeff Going gave the Harbor Master Report in Harbor Master Paul Riggio's absence.

The mooring permit and wait list applications were reviewed. Walter Wiegert stated concerns about the procedural situation and potential issues with regard to Tom Riggio's permit applications and wait list position and applications. Discussion ensued with concerns expressed about adhering to procedures.

New Wait List Requests

- James A. Coan, Main, application dated 5/15/15
- Tom Riggio, North Cove, application dated 5/8/15
- Tom Riggio, Meadows, application dated 5/8/15

Sabbatical

Garrett Heher, North Cove, 5/5/15

7. Harbor Management Business

- **Capital Projects:** None.

- **Town Access Ways**

Bushnell Access needs a Porta Potty, which the Town pays for, and the Main Street Dock needs better signage and the stenciling redone.

8. Correspondence

A Brewer Magazine was received.

9. New Business

- **Bushnell Access Small Vessel Storage Capacity**

Bushnell Access storage is at capacity and more permits cannot be issued at this time. Checks will be returned to those people who we received applications from and were not issued permits with a letter explaining the situation. A wait list will be started for those and future applications received. The Harbor Management Commission will monitor the situation and possibly increase rackage if it is determined that the site can handle it.

Motion: Walter Wiegert moved that we proceed as outlined above. Joe Zaraschi seconded the motion. Those in favor: Earl Fowler, Walter Wiegert and Joe Zaraschi; John Senning abstained; 34-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

Doug Dominie brought up a letter from an Essex Island boater concerning Police Boat usage and rough water over Memorial Day weekend. Discussion ensued on Police Boat usage and continual issues with its operation.

10. Old Business

- **Connecticut River Museum**

- a. Kayak Program**

Tom Klin reviewed the Connecticut River Museum ("Museum") kayak rental plans. Launching will be from the Main Street ramp. Major concerns were raised over safety issues with kayaks introduced into busy, strong current water.

- b. Dock Usage Review**

The Museum is asking for the Commission's support and approval for the COP process to change the permitted use of the Museum's floating docks to allow Museum members limited tie up during Museum open hours only. The details regarding this were reviewed and discussed.

Motion: Walter Wiegert moved that we support and approve the Museum's COP process for seeking the change in floating dock usage as discussed. Joe Zaraschi seconded the motion. Those in favor: Earl Fowler, John Senning, Walter Wiegert and Joe Zaraschi; 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

- **Yes/No Piling Update**

The Yes/No piling at the entrance to Middle Cove has been "fixed" and now supports a "C" letter in line with the anchorage markers, using black reflective tape.

- **Harbor Management Plan Update**

The Harbor Management Plan update project was moved to the next meeting due to the time.

Doug Dominie gave an update on the Amtrak Bridge situation. Issues related to this are possible as there are no spare parts currently available to back up the main gear box which was recently repaired. Amtrak has asked to allow the bridge to stay closed when no boat traffic is in sight to reduce strain on equipment. This is a dangerous situation that could have serious consequences.

11. Adjournment

Motion: Walter Wiegert moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. John Senning seconded the motion. Those in favor: Earl Fowler, John Senning, Walter Wiegert and Joe Zaraschi; 4-0-0 motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Going, Chairman/Betsy McLaughlin, Clerk