



Harbor Management Commission

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Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 18, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
Town Hall Meeting Room B & 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, Alternate/Treasurer, Terry Stewart, Brian Weinstein, Alternate (Remote), Susan Malan (Remote), Kit Schellens.

Absent Members: John Senning

Others Present: Paul Riggio, Harbor Master

Bill Herlihy was seated for John Senning and unseated when he arrived at 7:05 p.m.

3. Approval of the October 2021 Meeting Minutes

The October 28, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the October 28, 2021 Regular meeting minutes.

SECONDED: Kit Schellens; **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Bill Herlihy, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens; **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 October 31, 2021 of \$38,959.47.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the Treasurer's report for October 2021 as presented.

SECONDED: Kit Schellens; **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, John Senning, Kit Schellens; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** Bill Herlihy; **Approved:** 4/0/1. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

One Clerk invoice dated November 16, 2021 was presented in the amount of \$719.97. It was noted that this seemed high. The invoice was for three pay periods and was during mooring renewal peak season.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the Clerk's invoice as presented. **SECONDED:** Kit Schellens, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, John Senning, Kit Schellens; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** Bill Herlihy; **Approved:** 4/0/1. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

6. Harbor Master Report

Paul Riggio provided the following Harbor Master Report.

The mooring permit renewal period concluded on October 30, 2021.

- 80 approved permits
- 2 Sabbaticals: David Friedman, Robert Shickel
- 3 Giving up Mooring: Dave Fasulo, Roger Field, Patricia Gill
- 12 did not complete.

Wait List Applicants offered mooring permits period began November 15, 2021.

- 12 wait list applicants offered mooring permits: Todd Belcourt, Peter Charbonnier, Bryan Coppes, Robert Cornell, Edward D'Agostino, William Dow, Corey Manero, Jack Martin, Peter Martin, Andrew Mock (Main), John Noonan, Elizabeth Parkinson.

Of those 12, two have submitted applications to date: Peter Charbonnier, Robert Cornell.

Paul noted that the renewals went much better this year than last year. Although there are 17 possible spots available, only 12 locations were offered. This will allow us to gain some much needed space in the harbor since there were numerous reports of boats either hitting or too close for comfort.

Jeff noted that there would be more space available if the first rock pile is able to be moved.

Bushnell Access

- Krista Karch, two applications submitted on October 26, 2021 and approved.

The question was raised as to why *Trees in the Rigging* has been cancelled for this year. The reasons were identified as COVID related safety concerns with crowds at the end of Main Street with Santa and the children, as well as lighting and boating issues.

7. Harbor Management Business

- **WRDA** — Our application has been completed and submitted. If approved and funded, our dredging needs would be covered.

- **Dredging** — Back in August, Terry Stewart asked Jeff Going, Paul Riggio and Bill Herlihy to form a HMC sub-committee to assess the harbor's dredging needs. This sub-committee is separate from the Town's ad hoc committee looking at Thatchbed.

A shoal exists at the entrance to Middle Cove and the northwestern portion of the southern mooring field. You may have seen this shoal during a full moon load tide. Additionally, shoaling is reported in the navigational channel in front of EYC & Dauntless Marina. This is the same area HMC did maintenance dredging 10 years ago.

As a first step, a hydrographic survey is needed to define the scope for dredging. The subcommittee has identified VesPos Survey & Software as a survey provider. The principal, Nancy Byrne, has worked with our harbor previously, is recognized for quality work, and is based locally.

Harbor Commission members were provided with a copy of the quote that the sub-committee is asking the Harbor Commission to approve. Given the dollar amount, the sub-committee does not recommend an RFP process.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve spending the funds for a hydrographic survey as presented. **SECONDED:** Kit Schellens, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Kit Schellens; Terry Stewart; **Opposed:** John Senning, **Abstaining:** Susan Malan; **Approved:** 3/1/1. **Discussion:** The question was raised as to why the Harbor Commission should pay for all this if the Essex Yacht Club & Middle Cove Marina are also benefiting and why not allocate cost proportionately. The survey is primarily for the common channel.

- **Rock Pile Removal** - As reported last month, the COP is confirmed. An RFP to remove the rocks and repositioning trees is being issued with a December 3rd deadline. Harbor Commission members were provided with a copy of the RFP for review.

8. Harbor Plan Update

The latest working Harbor Management Plan draft was shared with the members. Members were asked to forward any comments to Terry, who will consolidate them.

The next steps are to have a session to look at updating the upfront “boilerplate” section of the plan defining the Harbor’s characteristics. This session will not need everyone and will probably include Paul Riggio and Jeff Going working with John Guskowski from Tyche Planning & Policy Group.

9. Town Public Access Points

- **Bushnell Storage.** Susan Malan reported on behalf of Bob Ward that that there were 15 vessels remaining on October 14, 2021. A reminder will be sent that they need to be removed by November 30th.
- **Mack Lane.** John Senning reported that all is peaceable there.
- **Nott Lane.** The geese problem on the dock at Nott Lane was discussed. Efforts will be made to find a solution to the geese problem rather than removing the float so as not to reduce access.

- **Turtle Creek.** Terry Stewart reported that he picks up trash there regularly.

10. Correspondence: None

11. New Business: None

12. Adjournment

MOTION made by Jeff Going to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. **SECONDED:** Kitt Schellens; **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy McLaughlin
Recording Clerk