

EAST GREENWICH COVE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES
May 18, 2021 Meeting
Virtual meeting on Zoom - Convened at 5:00 PM

Present: Bill Weedon (Chairman), Steve Mendes (Vice Chair) Paul Schmidle (Secretary), Mark Shapiro, Tom Assad, Jane Eaton and Johann Patlak.
Staff: Andrew Wade (Director Parks and Recreation) and Lea Anthony Hitchen, (Assistant Town Planner).

Mr. Weedon called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Minutes of 16 March 2021 meeting were approved.
2. Introductions
 - a. Johann Patlak, New Member of the Cove Commission
 - i. Johann and his wife have been residences of Greenwich for three years. They and their two young daughters live on Peirce St. They spend time at the cove both walking along the shore with kids and sailing in their little catboat.
 - ii. He views the Cove Commission as an opportunity to participate in town government. Johann is interested in ocean and shoreline management from both human use (recreational, commercial) and environmental (pollution, climate change) viewpoints. He is looking forward to serving the town and helping to make our small but beautiful piece of the bay a better place for all.
3. Harbor Master's report/ Cove Management Operations.
 - a. The Harbor Master's report as provided by Andy Wade in Mark Papparelli absence.
 - b. Kayak and dinghy rack status: There were several kayaks found outside the rack on the ground. Parks and recreations crews returned the kayaks to their racks.
 - c. Maintenance of the docks at the town boat ramp: The Parks and Recreation Department personal will inspect the town boat ramp and dock on Thursday 20 May to determine if any repairs are required.
 - d. Unused docks anchored in the upper cover: CRMC grants permission for docks to be anchored in the cove over the winter. There are 3 docks currently anchored in the upper cove. The harbor master will investigate to determine if these docks are awaiting installation or have been abandoned.

- e. Styrofoam floatation in docks: There are still docks in Greenwich Cove using Styrofoam floatation. For environmental reasons that material is being phased out.
 - f. Tour of the Cove: Andy Wade proposed giving Cove Commission members of water-based tour of the cove to allow members to better understand the issues and constraints associated with the Cove. The date for this event has not been determined.
4. Review of the Harbor Management Plan
- a. The updated Harbor Management Plan needs to be published. All members have the latest management plan for review. Most commission members reviewed the plan and provided inputs last fall however newer members are just now reviewing the plan. Lea Hitchens has been delayed in integrating all comments due to the requirement to move offices.
 - b. Annex of emergency phone numbers: Bill Weedon proposed an Annex to the Harbor Management Plan to include emergency phone numbers. Several members of the commission were concerned that these numbers would be quickly outdated. There was concern that people reporting for example a loose boat in the cove would not have ready access to the Harbor Management Plan. Steve Mendes proposed the emergency contact information be put on the town web site.
5. The Waterfront Study
- a. The process of selecting a contractor for the waterfront study is moving ahead. The planning department will start interviewing contractors in the next couple weeks. Lea Anthony said the cove commission will be brought into this process when its appropriate.
 - b. This study is critical for planning the future development and use of the cove.
6. CRMC Application File No. D2020-09-002 (Merger of East Greenwich and Scallop Town Marina)
- a. Work has resumed on this marina project.
 - b. The electrical connection platform has been moved off the right of way.
 - c. The town is working with the owner on a possible compromise to preserve the public right of way and allows for the expanded marina.
7. Right of Ways (ROW) issues
- a. Parking restrictions in the ROW are not defined. ROWs continue to be used for long term equipment and boat storage. The cove commission

proposed a 4-hour parking restriction. The town council need to vote on this restriction.

- b. The exact location and size of the ROW is an issue. The Cove Commission believes the ROW need to be surveyed and the boundaries marked to prevent further encroachment.
 - c. Bill Weedon will bring these topics up with Andy Nota. The town manager will get these issues in front of the town council for consideration.
8. **MOTION** to recommend to Town Council that a ROW parking ordinance be established with ROW parking restrictions and a survey of all right of ways be initiated.
- a. Moved by Bill W., seconded by Tom Assad.
 - b. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Motion carries 7 -0

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.