

East Greenwich Cove Management Advisory Commission meeting 6/15/2021

Minutes

Present: Bill Weedon, Mark Shapiro, Steve Mendes, Johann Patlak

Staff: Lea Anthony Hitchen, Lisa Bourbonnais, Andy Wade, Mark Paparelli

Mr. Weedon called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm

1. Approval of minutes deferred to end of meeting
2. Harbormaster report

Presentation by Harbormaster Mark Paparelli regarding boating activity in the Cove. Town dock has been very busy, with 4 accidents and 2 sunken boats. Primary safety issues are Rules of the Road violations in the navigable channel. Discussed possible boater education initiatives. Update on town mooring usage. Town employees shifting to dock maintenance after busy spring sports season.

3. Waterfront study update

Presentation by Lisa Bourbonnais regarding the selection process of Beta Group as the winning bid for a broad conceptual waterfront study. Ms. Bourbonnais addressed possible next steps in terms of public outreach, including role for the commission. Discussed benefits of concurrent work on waterfront study, hazard mitigation, and harbor management plans in terms of climate change resiliency.

4. Harbor Management Plan

Updates from Lea Anthony Hitchen. Maps in prior report very outdated. Ms. Hitchen is working on new maps which should be ready to look at next meeting. Ms. Bourbonnais noted that ongoing efforts to delineate and maintain ROW were addressed at the Town Council meeting. Mr. Weedon encouraged attendance at Town Council meetings to improve communication between the commission and the council.

5. East Greenwich Marina

Mr. Weedon noted that he had discussed the marina expansion with CRMC manager. Current plan is to keep expansion of both North and South marina areas within original footprint. Mr. Paparelli notes that the North marina looks good and that CRMC will monitor for infringements on the navigable channel.

6. Waterfront tours

Members expressed interest in guided boat tours with the Harbormaster. Mr. Wade and Mr. Paparelli will offer times for this in small groups .

7. Discussion of prior minutes

Mr. Weedon noted that minute taking for the prior meeting was a shared task and that minutes submitted for approval were based on two sets of notes. Mr. Mendes stated that he took notes for the first half of the prior meeting and that the minutes submitted for approval differ significantly from the notes he submitted. Decision made to defer approval of minutes until next meeting after further review.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Weedon. Seconded by Mr. Shapiro. Vote: 4-0