

Cove Commission meeting notes

Date- 06/19/2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Mark Shapiro, Tony DiBella and Paul Schmidle

Commissioners Absent: Bethany Warburton (Chair) and Steve Mendes

Staff Present: Lea Anthony Hitchen, Assistant Town Planner; Jim Cullen, Harbormaster; Gayle Corrigan, Town Manager; Cathy Bradley, Director of Community Services & Parks; and Tom Thornton, Recreation Manager.

Approval of Minutes:

May 15, 2018 minutes were tabled to the July meeting.

Harbormaster Report

Mr. Cullen informed the Commission that all of the existing moorings are up to date. He mentioned that he was approached by the Sea Scouts who asked to have two moorings in the Cove. Mr. Cullen suggested creating a new classification/category as was done for the GBSA a couple of years ago in which they could be eligible for an educational (non profit) mooring (as opposed to a residential or commercial mooring. Mr. Cullen was confident there is available space in the Cove for the additional two moorings and recommended a \$300 fee. He said the two boats that would be affiliated with the moorings are 24' and 30' in length. Mr. Cullen did not have any objections allowing the Sea Scouts the moorings considering they have had a presence on the Cove for years and they provide an annual community service event, being the Safe Boating Day.

Ms. Corrigan suggested adding the request for two additional moorings to the June 25th Town Council docket for their approval. This would be conditioned upon CRMC and a RIDEM water quality certification approval. Discussion ensued as to where and in what form the moorings could be set up, such as on a floating dock. Additionally the idea arose to convert two existing residential moorings to nonprofit moorings next year in order to keep open waters as opposed to simply adding new moorings to the water.

Moving on to other harbormaster matters, Ms. Corrigan and Mr. Cullen jointly updated the Commission that \$25,000 was approved in the FY19 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for a harbormaster boat. Mr. Cullen has been in the process of researching multiple marinas and websites in order to get the best deal and is hopeful to soon have a new used boat on the water.

Lastly, Mr. Cullen and Ms. Bradley explained a recent situation regarding a riparian mooring – Mr. Scott Sogard sold his waterfront property in December 2017 but renewed his mooring in February 2018. The new owner of the home on Crompton Avenue was aware she was eligible for a mooring and requested a

mooring only to find out that Mr. Sogard had the mooring. A certified letter was issued to Mr. Sogard indicating he no longer has riparian mooring eligibility.

Circling back to the proposed Sea Scouts mooring discussion, some Commissioners felt uncomfortable simply adding moorings – by increasing the moorings could “clog up” the current spacious Cove and did not want EG Cove to potentially turn into Warwick Cove or Apponaug Cove with a high density amount of moorings and docks. The suggestion was made to have a study performed on new mooring configurations and capacity.

Motion by Mr. Shapiro to create an “Educational/Nonprofit” Mooring Classification Category for recommendation to the Town Council. Seconded by Mr. DiBella.

VOTE: 3 – 0.

With present Commissioners having reservations moving forward with additional moorings in the Cove and with two veteran Commissioners not present to provide their input on the matter it was determined the Harbormaster and Recreation Department would further investigate adding moorings.

Discussion of Harbor Management Plan update

Ms. Hitchen thanked the Commissioners for submitting their comments on Chapter 3. She will be taking the annotations and making the necessary modifications into the updated HMP.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 17th at 5pm.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mr. Schmidle.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Lea Anthony Hitchen August 21, 2018

Approved on: August 21, 2018

-4 in favor (M. Shapiro, T. DiBella, P. Schmidle, B. Warburton)

-0 opposed