

EAST GREENWICH COVE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES
August 11, 2020 Meeting
VIRTUAL - Convened at 5:00 PM via the ZOOM Remote Meeting
Platform

Present: Paul Schmidle, Mark Shapiro, Steve Mendes, and Bill Weedon.

Staff: Lea Anthony Hitchen, Assistant Town Planner and Andrew
Nota, Town Manager

Ms. Hitchen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Report from Town Manager Andrew Nota

Mr. Nota provided a comprehensive update on the harbormaster and recent harbor activities. Both harbormaster boat and town fire boat are currently down. Harbormaster boat has a minor electrical issue and should be back operational shortly. Fire Dept is borrowing a fire boat from Cranston. A question was raised by Mr. Weedon about the ability of harbormaster to give tickets or respond to crimes on the water. Mr. Nota stated that the police dept have keys to the harbormaster boat and can respond that way. But the harbormaster does not currently have the ability including training to respond to criminal activity or even give tickets for speeding. Mr. Nota suggested that the Cove Management Commission meet with Police Chief Brown at a later meeting to get his input.

2. Discussion with CRMC Staff re: Town's ROWs

Ms. Hitchen explained there was a meeting originally set in mid-March to review and discuss the six right-of-ways with Mr. Kevin Cute of CRMC. Due to the pandemic the meeting has temporarily been put on hold.

3. Update on RFP for the Waterfront Plan

Ms. Hitchen and Mr. Nota indicated that the Town Planning office received 9 proposals in response to the RFP that was issued for a Waterfront Plan, with the \$40K that was allocated by Town Council in last year's budget. Mr. Nota indicated that the proposals are currently "on hold" and that the money is "in a safe place" in a capital reserve account with other capital projects

that are on hold. All capital projects are currently on hold waiting on the state budget, including a town parking study.

Mr. Mendes asked if the Cove Commission could get copies of the 9 proposals that were submitted in response to the RFP. Ms. Anthony said that she would have to check, but in principle, yes.

4. Harbor Management Plan Update

Ms. Hitchen advised other work priorities and pandemic issues have slowed down progress being made on the Harbor Management Plan. The existing HMP was last updated in the 2009 timeframe and CRMC approved in 2011. Mr. Weedon asked if Commission members could obtain a copy of the latest redline markup of the HMP so they can refamiliarize themselves with it for the next meeting with a GOAL of having a complete version to vote on and send up to Town council by the end of the calendar year. Ms. Hitchen said she did not have the HMP in a form to be released to the Commission. She preferred to have the ability to work on it in a manner that would provide for better input from the Commission members once they do have the opportunity to review it. Ms. Hitchen agreed and supported the idea of completing the HMP by the end of the calendar year.

5. Commission Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr. Weedon nominated himself as chair of the Commission and Mr. Mendes as vice-chair. Mr. Shapiro seconded the slate of chair and vice-chair.

Roll Call: Mr. Schmidle: Yes; Mr. Mendes: Yes; Mr. Shapiro; and Mr. Weedon: Yes.

Vote: 4-0.

Motion to Adjourn by Mr. Shapiro. Seconded by Mr. Schmidle. VOTE: 4-0.