

MINUTES

Town of East Greenwich
Cove Management Advisory Commission
August 21, 2018 at 5:00pm
Community Services and Parks Office, 1127 Frenchtown Road, East Greenwich, RI 02818

Committee Members in Attendance: Tony DiBella, Steve Mendes, Mark Shapiro, Paul Schmidle, Bethany Warburton

Staff in Attendance: Dave Black, Gayle Corrigan, Jim Cullen, Thomas Thornton

The meeting was called to order at 5:06pm

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ms. Warburton to approve the May 15, 2018 and June 19, 2018 minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Shapiro. Approved 4-0. Mr. Mendes arrived at 5:15pm, after vote had taken place.

2. Harbor Master Report

Mr. Cullen introduced Dave Black, Deputy Harbor Master and provided an overview of the training they have been conducting. Mr. Black is a Detective for the East Greenwich Police Department, with many years of experience dealing with the public. Mr. Cullen informed the commission that the new harbor master boat has been in the water since the end of July and is 95% outfitted. Mr. Cullen specified other than a few phone calls he has received in regards to people moving their location of their moorings, there were no mooring issues to report.

3. Harbor Management Plan

Mr. Thornton then reviewed the current mooring numbers for East Greenwich with 110 available moorings 108 have been rented, 43 rented to East Greenwich residents, 30 rented to non-residents and 35 are rented as commercial moorings.

Ms. Warburton questioned how many moorings the City of Warwick offers in the Cove. Mr. Cullen informed the commission that there use to be a liaison between the two commissions (East Greenwich and Warwick) and that there is no longer one. Mr. Thornton then implied he will reach out to Warwick for their numbers. Ms. Warburton suggested that Mr. Thornton ask Warwick's Harbor Master and Cove Commission staff if they would be interested in a joint meeting between the East Greenwich and Warwick Cove Commissions.

Ms. Warburton shared a few edits that she had supplied Lea Anthony Hitchin, assistant planning director, who is currently working on the updated Harbor Management Plan. Members want to wait for Lea to discuss the Plan in greater detail, once the edits have been applied.

Ms. Warburton then questioned the language for mooring transfers.

Ms. Corrigan detailed that the Community Services and Parks staff may review and edit the mooring transfer language that Ms. Warburton had currently made, and make a recommendation to the Cove Commission before going to council for approval.

Mr. Cullen stated that this would become an issue for non-residents.

Mr. Mendes noted that the commission had talked about the transferring of moorings before, but it had been delayed over the language, bringing up dire situations or on a case by case situation.

Ms. Warburton is open to the idea of how to word the language, allowing transfers for East Greenwich residents only.

Ms. Corrigan agreed that transfers be allowed only for East Greenwich residents and that she would like to see the cove become more accessible for residents.

Mr. DiBella informed everyone that the current language reads “No Transfers”.

Ms. Warburton suggests getting rid of no transfers and to rewrite.

Ms. Corrigan suggests having the staff review the transfer language.

Ms. Warburton recommended that East Greenwich residents be allowed a one time transfer to another East Greenwich resident. If it's an East Greenwich resident to a non-resident then it would need to be reviewed by the commission.

Mr. Cullen reviewed the process if there were questions in regards to moorings. Mr. Cullen stated that he may answer questions as the Harbor Master. Questions may also be directed to Catherine Bradley, Director of Community Services and Parks. Mr. Cullen explained that any appeals in regards to moorings go through Gayle Corrigan, Town Manager.

Mr. Schmidle questions if the commission would be involved in the transfer of moorings.

Ms. Corrigan notifies Mr. Schmidle only if the transfer was from a East Greenwich resident to a non-resident.

Ms. Warburton will e-mail Mr. Thornton to have Community Services and Parks staff review transfer wording that was presented last October, never making its way to council.

Cove Commission as a whole is in favor of staff to review, and make suggestion at next Cove Commission meeting. Upon agreement, new language would need to be presented to the Town Council.

Mr. Schmidle would like to discuss the towns boat launch, and size requirements.

Mr. Mendes talks about a large boat taking up ramp space. He wants to add an ordinance that boats over 35 feet in length would need permission from the Harbor Master to use the ramp.

Ms. Corrigan states that it needs to be in the Harbor Regulations, and if not then it needs to be put on a town council agenda.

Mr Cullen informs Gayle he believes there is some documentation of this matter. Ms. Corrigan instructs Mr. Thornton to reach out to Lea Anthony Hitchin to see if she has any write up in regards to this and to report at the next meeting.

4. Request for Information for Waterfront Evaluation Update

Mr. Thornton read an email he received from Lea Anthony Hitchin stating the Planning Board was putting the evaluation on hold due to other projects that have taking place as well as the Planning Department's recent move from Town Hall.

Mr. Mendes and Mr. Schmidle questioned the money set aside for the evaluation. Ms. Corrigan informed the Commission it needs to go to council for a roll over on capital improvement. Ms. Warburton informs everyone that the roll over has already been done once before. Ms. Corrigan states she will look into money for the waterfront study.

Mr. Schmidle informs Ms. Corrigan that \$30,000 was originally suppose to be for the move of the transfer station, until the Planning Board got involved and made it into a bigger project encompassing the entire cove, amounting to more money than was previously allocated.

Mr. Mendes questioned if the transfer station will be moving to Bear Swamp. Ms. Corrigan educates the commission on the overtime that is currently being paid to run the transfer station. She also stated that moving the transfer station to Bear Swamp would not work, but there is a possibility of having services rendered by the Town of North Kingstown as long as the logistics worked out.

Ms. Warburton makes a motion to recommend the decommission of the transfer station. Motion was seconded by Mr. Shapiro. Vote 5-0 in favor of recommending the transfer station to be decommissioned. (Yes-DiBella, Mendes, Shapiro, Schmidle, Warburton)

Ms. Warburton suggests to Mr. Thornton to research what the Planning Board had suggested to council.

Ms. Corrigan then shared the Narragansett Bay quality report, stating oxygen levels are low and is leading to fish kills. She also shared that back in 2017 there was a Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) report of 3 separate locations of fecal run off in East Greenwich into the cove. She informed the commission

that the East Greenwich Department of Public Works and its director, Joe Duarte, and herself are currently investigating the matter and preparing a report for RIDEM.

5. Review of Educational/ Non-Profit Mooring Fee

Mr. Thornton shared information regarding the existence of a Educational/ Non-Profit mooring fee of \$225.

Ms. Warburton states that she would like to reallocate existing moorings for the Educational/ Non-Profit moorings.

Mr. Schmidle implies that he is in favor and does not want to add any more moorings to what he believes is an already crowded cove.

Mr Cullen recommends to keep the existing moorings and to add a few for educational/ non-profit purposes. He also informs the commission he believes that there is room available in the cove to do so. Mr. Mendes is in agreement with Mr. Cullen.

Ms. Warburton questions Mr. Cullen about new moorings having a float in between two boats. She suggests going forward on a trial basis for the educational/non-profit moorings. Mr. Cullen informs the commission he would need to look into the specifications for the floats before making any promises. Ms. Corrigan informs the commission once Mr. Cullen has reviewed the specifications that they would be responsible for developing a new ordinance for the Town Council to approve. Mr. Cullen was in agreement.

Ms. Warburton made a motion to add two new additional moorings for educational/ non-profits and to reallocate a non-resident mooring to a educational/ non-profit mooring. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shapiro. Motion passed with a vote 4-1. (Yes-Warburton, Shapiro, Mendes, DiBella, No- Schmidle).

6. Discussion of building kayak/ canoe rack- Scalloptown Park

Ms. Corrigan states that the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) would need to give approval of any sort of rack.

Mr. DiBella questions if people were leaving their kayaks overnight at Scalloptown, Mr. Shapiro stated no. Ms. Warburton asks Mr. Black if the Police Department sees any vandalism at the park, as she is worried about people leaving kayaks or paddleboards at the park. Mr. Black informs that the police do see vandalism. Mr. Shapiro states that he is worried about vandalism as well.

Mr. DiBella questions the point of the rack and does not understand why the current kayak rack is not good enough, as these recreation vessels are easy to move.

Mr. Mendes shares that he believes the construction of a rack would make the cove more accessible for recreational use, and that it would compliment the new kayak launch.

Ms. Warburton then asks Mr. Thornton to look into what other towns in Rhode Island are offering for kayak storage (pricing, build, vandalism and any drawbacks) before the Cove Commission discusses this any further. Mr. Thornton agrees to do so. Mr. Schmidle informs Mr. Thornton to take a look at Barrington, as he believes they have storage for kayaks.

Mr. Cullen shares a story with the Cove Commission about a derelict boat that Mr. Black had informed him about rising to the surface of the water. Mr. Cullen, Mr. Black and a local diver wrapped a line around the boat and towed it out of the cove via the boat ramp where the East Greenwich Highway department hauled it away.

7. Review and Discuss Commission Procedures

Mr. Thornton reviewed the posting requirements for minutes and agendas.

Mr. Thornton reviewed the changes in open meeting law and informed that agendas must be posted at least forty-eight hours in advance, not including weekends and state holidays. He also stated that once minutes are passed they will be posted on the Towns website, as well as, the Rhode Island Secretary of State website.

Mr. DiBella informs the Commission that minutes were previously being presented for review with insufficient time. Ms. Corrigan states that the Commission needs to review the by-laws and procedures. Mr. Thornton informs he will have the bi-laws and procedures for all members at the next Cove Commission meeting.

Ms. Corrigan states that as the Chair of the Commission, Ms. Warburton may call a meeting any day she sees fit. Ms. Warburton suggests September 11, 2018 at 5:00pm. All members agree. A motion was made by Mr. Shapiro to adjourn the meeting at 6:48pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Warburton. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0. (Yes-DiBella, Mendes, Schmidle, Shapiro, Warburton).

Submitted by Thomas Thornton October 16, 2018

A motion was made by Ms. Warburton to approve the 8/21/18 minutes on 10/16/18. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shapiro. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0. (Yes-DiBella, Mendes, Shapiro, Warburton. Schmidle was absent from meeting)