

MINUTES

Town of East Greenwich
Cove Management Advisory Commission
October 16, 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, Bethany Warburton

Committee Members Absent: Paul Schmidle

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:02pm

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Ms. Warburton to approve the August 21, 2018 minutes as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Shapiro. Approved 4-0. (Yes- DiBella, Mendes, Shapiro, Warburton).

2. Harbor Master Report

Mr. Cullen stated that Columbus Day is typically the end of the patrol season in the harbor. He stated that all in all it was a good summer. He stated that his patrol boat is now 100% outfitted. Mr. Cullen is now working with the East Greenwich Department of Public Works in regards to fecal deposits into the water of the cove and are currently waiting on test results to come back. Mr. Cullen stated that the Sea Scouts are now investigating about anchored working platforms. He stated that he is unsure of how the dock system would be maintained and needs to be looked into. Mr. Cullen said he is not against the idea of the town taking over the equipment for moorings and that it is something to think about for the future. He stated if it works out he would like to see the town look into eventually incorporating this style of mooring. Mr. Cullen stated it could decrease clutter and make for more navigable waterways.

Ms. Bradley informed Mr. Cullen that the Sea Scouts would need to apply for a mooring. She questioned on how would the mooring be classified, would it be 2 moorings or 1 mooring? Mr. Cullen responded that it should be two moorings, since it is two boats. Mr. Cullen has been conducting research on this type of mooring but has been unable to find information on it. Mr. Shapiro asked Mr. Cullen if the Sea Scouts would be responsible for removing the working platform from the water. Mr. Cullen informed the Commission that the Sea Scouts will be responsible for building the docks and meeting specifications, as well as the removal of the platform at the end of the boating season.

Mr. Cullen updated the Commission about a 25' lobster boat that was just about under water when he was notified of the situation. Working in partnership with the East

Greenwich Fire Department and Warwick harbor master they were able to float the boat. Mr. Cullen stated he had talked to Ms. Corrigan in regards to an emergency pump, that cost about \$150. Ms. Corrigan allowed him to purchase the pump and is now on his boat. Mr. DiBella asked Mr. Cullen if there were any fees associated with the pumping out of the lobster boat and if the owner was notified. Mr. Cullen stated that there were no fees or fines that would be handed down to the owner and that the owner was notified and extremely thankful for saving his boat.

Ms. Bradley updated the Commission on outstanding mooring renewal document. She stated that there was about one current registration needed. Mr. Cullen stated that towards the end of the boating season he sees mooring holders become forgetful about checking on their mooring lines and vessels. Ms. Bradley offered to Mr. Cullen that the Department has access to e-mails so she could send mooring holder notices. Ms. Warburton agreed with the idea and thinks it would be helpful if an end of the season tips e-mail went out to mooring holders. Mr. Cullen was to draft a document for dissemination.

3. Harbor Management Plan Update from Planning Department

Mr. Thornton informed the commission that he spoke with Lea Anthony Hitchen, Assistant Planning Director, and that she had requested and received an extension for the Harbor Management Plan from the Coastal Resource Management Council. The extension will now expire on October 4, 2019. Ms. Warburton stated that she would reach out to Ms. Anthony Hitchen in regards to a draft. Ms. Warburton would like to see a draft of the Harbor Management Plan by the end of May.

4. Review City of Warwick Mooring Numbers

Mr. Thornton reviewed the mooring numbers of Warwick with the Commission. He stated the City of Warwick eliminated the resident/non-resident moorings about 5 years ago. This was due to the dredging on federal waterways and the use of federal money. When federal money is being used a city/town can no longer classify moorings as resident/non-resident. Warwick decided they were not going to have some mooring fields in parts of Warwick be designated as resident/non-resident and in other parts of the City designated private. The City decided to make moorings throughout the City private or commercial.

Per Jeff Baris, Warwick Harbor Master, the City of Warwick has 201 commercial moorings in Greenwich Cove. (92- EG Yacht Club, 100- Prime (formally Nortons, 2- NE Yacht Rigging, 2- Greenwich Cove Marina, and 5 additional small businesses). The City of Warwick has 66 private moorings in Greenwich Cove, bringing a total of private and commercial moorings to 267 in Greenwich Cove. The City of Warwick has a wait list of 185 for the entire city and about 35 for Greenwich Cove specifically. Per Mr. Baris he is suggesting to expand the mooring field for about 20 additional moorings. Mr. DiBella questioned where these additional moorings would be placed. Mr. Cullen stated that they would be by Prime and in the Cove. Mr. Thornton informed the Commission that the City of Warwick is currently charging \$150 annually for commercial moorings and \$3/foot for private moorings. Ms. Warburton was curious how much Nortons or other

marinas mark up their costs. Mr. Cullen stated that marinas are charging anywhere between \$750-\$1000 annually. Mr. Shapiro questions Mr. Cullen if he believes there is more space south of Prime to add additional moorings. Mr. Cullen stated that he believes there is room for 5 additional moorings.

5. Review Town Transfer Station Recommendations.

Ms. Corrigan informed the commission that she will put the capital rollover for the request for information in the amount of \$30,000 on the next Town Council agenda which is October 22, 2018. Ms. Warburton questioned if the capital rollover goes through, will that include the request for information on the harbor. Ms. Bradley informed Ms. Warburton that if it was to go through, the Planning Department would be responsible for working on that. Mr. Mendes mentioned the idea of partnering with the Town of West Greenwich to use their transfer station on Bates Trail. Ms. Corrigan stated that she had talked with the East Greenwich Department of Public Works and with the current Town Council about the transfer station. She stated that many members of the Council were in support of moving the transfer station from the cove.

6. Review Dock and Ramp Capacity Language

Mr. Thornton reviewed that during the October 17, 2017 Cove Management Commission meeting there was a motion to draft a dock and ramp capacity ordinance. Mr. Cullen stated that there was never an ordinance that was written up. Ms. Corrigan stated that she would like to present an ordinance to the Town Council during the next council meeting for a first reading. Mr. Cullen stated that there would be no issue with the Coastal Resource Management Council with the ordinance and that it would need to be added to the Harbor Management Plan. Mr. Cullen informed Ms. Corrigan that he will check with the Planning Department to see if they have a draft and will report back to Ms. Corrigan on what he finds. Mr. Cullen agreed that any boat over the length of 35' or 6 tons in weight would require the Harbormaster to be notified seeking approval of use of the dock and ramp as previously discussed during the October 17, 2017 meeting.

7. Discuss Mooring Transfer Language

Ms. Bradley stated that the department had conducted research and found out that the Coastal Resource Management Council will not approve Harbor Management Plans that include mooring transfers. One reason for concern, from the Coastal Resource Management Council, is that ratios in communities waterways are not within the Coastal Resource Management Councils guidelines. A second reason against allowing mooring transfers, is that families are monopolizing them, therefore limited water access to others. Ms. Warburton thanked Mr. Thornton and Ms. Bradley for their research and stated that there will be no mooring transfers, as is the current language.

8. Discuss Building Kayak/Canoe Rack- Scalloptown Park

Mr. Thornton reviewed what other communities are offering for dinghy/ kayak racks. Barrington, Bristol, Middletown, Newport and Jamestown all offer dinghy/kayak racks. Most of these communities have these racks located in well lighted areas and have not seen any, if at all, theft or vandalism, aside from Newport. Newport had to install

cameras at one of their rack locations due to juveniles taking kayaks and canoes for joy rides. Barrington stated that one of the concerns of its harbormaster is that people using personal watercraft are not wearing life jackets. Mr. Cullen stated it is required that everyone on a vessel is required to have a life jacket available and that it was not needed for canoes and kayaks, except children. Mr. Cullen stated that he would follow state and Coast Guard regulations in patrolling the Cove in regards to the use of life jackets.

Mr. DiBella stated that he is concerned about having the kayak rack at Scalloptown Park due to its seclusion.

Mr. Mendes stated that he believes Scalloptown Park is underutilized and that something needs to be done to facilitate recreational use. Ms. Warburton agreed that the park should be utilized more for recreational use. Ms. Corrigan stated that the Coastal Resource Management Council would need to approve a rack. Ms. Bradley stated a location would need to be decided on first before moving any further. Ms. Corrigan suggested having staff propose some rack locations to the Cove Commission.

Mr. Mendes asked Mr. Cullen if there had ever been an issue by Scalloptown Park in which Mr. Cullen responded no.

Ms. Bradley suggested that a rack could be a great project for the Sea Scouts to build. Mr. Cullen said he would talk with the Sea Scouts about that. Mr. DiBella asks if there was any space at the end of Division Street to put a rack. Ms. Bradley informed that due to low tide it is not possible to put kayak in at that location. Mr. Cullen was in agreement with Ms. Bradley and noted that there are rocks located in that area as well.

Mr. Shapiro suggested the possibility of locking Scalloptown park at night. Ms. Bradley said she believes the Police Department is too busy and not able to do that. Mr. Black agreed with Ms. Bradley and informed the commission that Scalloptown is already being patrolled. Mr. Shapiro stated that he is concerned about kids drinking at Scalloptown. Mr. Black responded that he does not see a problem with drinking there. Mr. Shapiro stated that he has seen empty beer bottles in the park. Ms. Bradley informed the Commission that an LL Bean trailer was parked in Scalloptown and never saw any vandalism. Ms. Corrigan once again stated to the commission that staff can review locations for the rack. Ms. Warburton is in favor of having staff do that.

9. Review and Discuss Chapter 34, Article II & Chapter 128 Town Code.

Mr. Thornton distributed copies of Chapter 34, Article II and Chapter 128 to members of the commission. Ms. Corrigan pointed out that the Commission is suppose to be made up of seven members, and that two more should be added. She stated in order to join the person must be eligible to vote in the Town of East Greenwich, and must submit a letter of interest and resume to the Town Clerk. The Town Council would then interview and appoint a person to the Commission.

Ms. Corrigan stated that she would like to know what is next in the process of creating the non-profit/ educational moorings for approval. Ms. Bradley stated that the Coastal

Resource Management Council would need to approve them. Mr. Cullen stated that he will write a letter to the Coastal Resource Management Council about the new moorings. Ms. Bradley talked about how these new moorings may affect the mooring ratio and that it needs to be looked into. Mr. Cullen stated that he will be in contact with the Coastal Resource Management Council to review.

Mr. Mendes dismissed himself from the meeting at 6:17pm.

Ms. Warburton stated that Chapter 128, N, would need to add in a non-profit/educational write up. Ms. Corrigan informed the Commission of the process to pass an ordinance; 1st reading followed by a public hearing and third a reading with a Town Council vote. Ms. Warburton stated it would be a good idea to have the Harbor Management Plan draft done by May and to review the ordinances again.

Ms. Warburton asks Ms. Corrigan how much notice is needed to add an item onto the Town Council agenda. Ms. Corrigan stated that the deadline would be the Thursday prior to a Monday meeting by 4:30pm.

Mr. Shapiro asked Mr. Cullen how he handles transient moorings. Mr. Cullen informed Mr. Shapiro that he works with people on a case by case situation and has not had any problems with transient moorings in the past.

A motion was made by Mr. Shapiro to adjourn the meeting at 6:43pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Warburton. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0. (Yes-DiBella, Shapiro, Warburton).

Submitted by Thomas Thornton November 20, 2018

A motion was made by Ms. Warburton to approve the 10/16/18 minutes on 11/20/18. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schmidle. The motion passed with a vote of 4-0. (Yes-Mendes, Schmidle, Shapiro, Warburton.)