

Cove Commission meeting notes

Date- 10/1/2014 at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Richard Friend (Chair), Christopher Pearson (Vice-Chair), and Barbara Brusini.

Commissioners Absent: Robert Laforge and Nicole Rainville.

Others Present: Kevin Cute of CRMC

Staff Present: Lea Anthony Hitchen, Assistant Town Planner and Jim Cullen, Harbormaster.

Approval of Minutes:

September 3rd minutes were tabled to the following month due to lack of a voting quorum.

Discussion of the EG Harbor Management Plan with Kevin Cute from CRMC:

Mr. Kevin Cute of CRMC informed the Commissioners that the current HMP does not expire until January 14, 2016; he felt the Town was in a good position for the 5-year update considering the plan was completely recreated in 2010 which followed the CRMC guidelines therefore there will be minimal changes to the update. He explained CRMC requires harbor management plans to address elements on public access, water quality management and storm preparedness as well as the original requirement of mooring management which the East Greenwich plan already speaks to. Mr. Cute advised the Commission to check for any deficiencies pertaining to the RIDEM water quality certification and address any changes in terms of current uses (i.e. addition of paddleboards in Cove).

Mr. Cute noted Ms. Alicia Richardson of RIDEM Water Resources Department is the contact with regard to water quality certification.

Mr. Cute summarized the purpose of having an approved harbor management plan which is to provide a comprehensive and continuous evaluation of municipal harbor management activities; provide for a detailed assessment of current and/or proposed municipal harbor management programs, ordinances or regulations to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory and management requirements of the State of Rhode Island; and delegate the primary management authority and responsibilities of consistent local harbor management programs to the municipalities.

Having worked with the Commission on the last update, Mr. Cute recalled the HMP to be well-thought out and not needing too much revision this time around. When asked what were to happen if the Town lets the HMP lapse/expire, Mr. Cute commented that the Town potentially would not get the mooring fees; the State could take the money and ultimately remove moorings.

Right-of-Way Workshop:

The Commissioners and Mr. Cute discussed the six CRMC right-of-ways; the only two which have clear access are the Division Street ROW and London Street ROW, all other four have a discrepancy of some sort. The King Street ROW, being the most recent ROW with a disagreement between the Town, neighbors and property owners was explained to Mr. Cute by the Commissioners. From what he was hearing, Mr. Cute was of the opinion that the changes that took place at the King Street ROW could be more than just a minor modification but he would discuss the matter with Laura Miguel and Brian Harrington, CRMC employees who focus specifically on access issues. He would also talk to with Greg Baribault of CRMC who performed a site visit of the King Street ROW and get back to the Commission/Ms. Hitchen.

Mr. Cute informed the Commission that CRMC has extra ROW signs; in order to replace the Town's faded ROW signs with new signs the Commission/Town can request new signs by sending a letter to Grover Fugate. Ms. Hitchen stated she would send the letter.

Mr. Cute noted that CRMC has a link on their webpage to an online map of all of the designated ROWs to the shore; the map is interactive and provides historical information about each one. He also spoke about the Adopt an Access Program which ensures that ROWs are maintained and enjoyed by the public; under the program, which includes 3 parties (CRMC, adoptive partner, and the Town) enter into an agreement where the adoptive partner maintains the ROW. The Commissioners verified that the Access program has been researched and are interested in the idea; the Sea Scouts come to mind as an adoptive partner.

Harbormaster Report:

Mr. Cullen informed the Commission that the past weekend (September 27th & 28th) was the busiest weekend of the entire summer. He added the Sea Scouts have a new used donated boat which is really nice.

All other agenda items were tabled to the following month.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5th at 4:30.

Motion by Mr. Pearson to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Brusini. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.