

## Cove Commission meeting notes

Date- 11/5/2014 at 4:30 p.m.

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

Commissioners Absent: Nicole Rainville and Stephen Mendes.

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

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### Introductions:

Commission welcomed new member Mr. Ken Powell to the meeting.

### Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Laforge to approve the September 3, 2014 and October 1, 2014 minutes. Seconded by Mr. Pearson.

Approved 4-0.

Commission members observed the “gangway” wedged between the town dock has been removed. The Harbormaster acknowledged that DPW staff removed it and disposed it in the nearby transfer station.

### Harbormaster Report:

Mr. Cullen informed the Commission that the Harbormaster boat has been out of the water since Columbus Day weekend and patrolling is done for the season but his own personal boat will be available for emergency use.

Regarding the federally funded harbormaster boat, Mr. Cullen explained that Police Chief Brown has also been advocating selling the boat as there is other equipment that needs to be off loaded. Furthermore, the boat is about 10 years old and estimated repairs for tubing cost \$20,000 and repowering cost \$10,000. Mr. Friend offered to research any statute of limitations for selling federal funded equipment. Ms. Brusini commented that as long as the Town is able to provide well documented evidence the proper steps have been taken and due diligence has been done on the Town’s part to sell the boat then Town should be covered. Mr. Cullen reminded everyone that he has received multiple verbal approvals to sell the boat but never anything in writing; in any event it is anticipated to put the boat up for sale this spring for about \$20,000. When asked what type of boat the Harbormaster would like to have as a replacement, he suggested a 22’ Seaway.

Mr. Powell inquired about the tied-up docks located in the lower Cove. Mr. Cullen explained the docks are on the Warwick side of the Cove; East Greenwich tried working with Warwick to remove the

“derelict” docks but Warwick never offered to assist. Mr. Friend offered to contact RIDEM to find out whether there is any assistance available to remove derelict boats and/or docks.

### **Review of Ordinances Chapter 34, Article II Cove Management Commission and Chapter 128 Harbor Management – Mooring Tackle**

Mr. Friend is continuing to work on an updated mooring tackle ordinance, basing his research on a “reasonable standard.” Mr. Cullen reminded the Commission that this particular discussion all came about due to the mooring inspectors inquiring about appropriate mooring tackle.

### **General Maintenance of Town Boat Ramp & Dock Area**

The Commissioners commented the old boat dock looks better as new pressure treated wood has replaced some of the rotted pieces.

### **Elections:**

Tabled until further notice.

### **Commissioners’ Roundtable:**

Mr. Laforge was interested in identifying the outflow into the Cove, such as nitrogen runoff. Mr. Cullen was of the opinion the Cove is cleaner now than it ever has been due to the enhanced WWTF, improved vehicle technology, closed bleachery, and all major point sources being cleaned now just focusing on non-point sources, i.e lawn fertilizer. Ms. Brusini volunteered to discuss the issue with Linda Green of URI.

Mr. Powell inquired about the Harris Marina/Rocky Hollow ROW. The Commissioners informed him of the history regarding that particular right of way and Mr. Cullen’s vision of turning it into a town marina/harbormaster dock.

Mr. Friend suggested having an informational session with the new Town Council members in order to discuss the pros and cons of dredging Cove. Ms. Hitchen noted she would speak to the Town Manager as to when the Cove Commission could meet with the Town Council.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30.

Motion by Mr. Pearson to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Brusini. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.