

Cove Commission meeting notes

Date- 3/4/2015 at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Richard Friend (Chair), Christopher Pearson (Vice-Chair), Barbara Brusini, Steve Mendes, Nicole Rainville, Bob Laforge, Bethany Warburton and Kenneth Powell.

Others Present: Town Council Member Bill Stone.

Staff Present: Lea Anthony Hitchen, Assistant Town Planner and Thomas Coyle, Town Manager.

Chair Friend took agenda items out of order due to Councilman Stone running late.

REPORTS:

Harbormaster Report:

No Harbormaster Report as Mr. Cullen is not present.

Mooring Issues:

No Mooring Issues.

Approval of Minutes:

February 4, 2015 minutes were tabled to the following agenda.

Tackle Inspection/Standards:

Mr. Friend has continued tackling the inspection standard ordinance; he informed the Commission he discussed the issue with Mr. Scott Leigh, known as “The Mooring Man” locally; who is one of a few companies that inspects moorings. Mr. Friend questioned why there are no regulations on winter sticks amongst other questions. One Commissioner queried who certifies the certifiers.

Discuss the Vision of a Waterfront Boardwalk:

The Commission welcomed Mr. Stone to their meeting and introduced each member. Mr. Stone thanked the Commission for inviting him and explained his vision of a “waterfront boardwalk.” He personally loves Scalloptown Park and has a huge interest in the waterfront. He felt as though the Commission have been good stewards and are the people with the most knowledge that could help implement such a project. Mr. Stone was compelled to believe a boardwalk could be funded by local corporate sponsors, private donations and grants. The addition of educational plaques, similar to those along the Audubon Society’s boardwalk in Bristol would be a great learning piece as well.

The Commission’s overall impression of the boardwalk idea was that it would be a great addition to the Town, highlight the waterfront and spark some new energy into the Cove Commission. It was noted the

idea of a “boardwalk” had been discussed in year’s past but the current Commission would like to help bring the idea to fruition.

The Commission brought to Mr. Stone’s attention the priorities they have been discussing over the past year, such as the need for dredging, especially in the vicinity of the Town dock and boat ramp and renovating the Rocky Hollow right of way for improved public access. Mr. Stone suggested the Commission prepare a business plan for any plans regarding the Rocky Hollow ROW.

Commissioners began formulating ideas of having concerts in the Cove, a Town Clambake in Scaloptown Park once the boardwalk was constructed.

Preparation of Annual Report to Town Council:

Ms. Hitchen and the Commissioners prepared for, amended and revised the Powerpoint presentation for the upcoming March 9th report to the Town Council.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1st at 4:30.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.