

## **Cove Commission meeting notes**

Date- 5/6/2015 at 4:30 p.m.

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

Commissioners Absent: Nicole Rainville.

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

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### **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Mr. Powell to approve the April 1, 2015 minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Pearson. Approved 6-0.

### **Commissioner's Request to Town Council:**

Mr. Pearson had sent a draft letter to the Commissioners for comments and editing purposes. There was limited feedback; Mr. Pearson will accommodate the necessary changes and resend the letter by the end of the week.

Motion by Ms. Brusini to send the letter as amended to the Town Manager/Town Council. Seconded by Ms. Warburton. Approved 7 – 0.

### **Harbormaster Report:**

Mr. Cullen had heard that Mrs. Harris and family would be scattering Ken Harris' ashes at the Harris Marina/Ricky Hollow ROW sometime in June.

Mr. Cullen informed the Commission that all moorings have been placed with latitude and longitude. The only mooring issue has since been rectified – Mr. Michael Zalabowski had been out of the country when his mooring was given away to someone else, that person declined the mooring and he since got it back.

The Harbormaster noted he does not have the patrol boat in the water yet; he has been using his own personal boat while working on the moorings.

### **Additional Ideas for Waterfront:**

The Commission discussed the need to develop a vision and operational budget before moving forward with presentations. They conversed about adding signs with QR codes for residents and visitors to learn about flora, fauna and history in and around the Cove.

Staff suggested the June meeting should be a workshop to focus a workshop on the waterfront boardwalk and what the Commissioner's would like to see at the waterfront. Mr. Cullen felt installing a boardwalk from the town boat ramp to Scalloptown would not be too problematic considering most land is town owned land. Additionally, the idea of a boardwalk along the waterfront could interlock with existing docks.

#### **Rights of Way Discussion:**

The Commissioners asserted the Rocky Hollow ROW now has tarps, multiple boats (one on a lift), debris, etc. in the area. Again, the Commission felt the property needs to be cleaned up as it can be a huge liability for the Town.

Mr. Pearson reminded the Commission the same conversation took place eight years ago; the only difference between then and now is the Town got CRMC to do the dirty work, Mr. Harris has since passed away and the politics has changed ever so slightly.

#### **Cove Commission Membership:**

Mr. Laforge indicated he would not seek reappointment for another 3-year term.

#### **Commissioner's Roundtable:**

Mr. Powell questioned the floating docks at the southern portion of the Cove and whether the Town can remove them; he felt they are a hazard to other boaters.

Ms. Hitchen noted beginning in 2016 all Cove Commission meetings will need to be recorded due to new legislation. She also informed the Commission that the Town received word from RIDEM that a dog park may in fact be possible to be located at Scalloptown – the Planning Department, along with other town departments is working with an informal dog park committee at finding a suitable location for a municipal dog park. The Commissioner's first inclination was to install the dog park along the north western side of Scalloptown where there is an existing chain link fence (which fences off the railroad tracks). The board members were immediately concerned of creating a mud pit during inclement weather and disturbing fauna and birdwatchers.

The next meeting/workshop will be held on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 at the town dock.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.