

## Cove Commission meeting notes

Date- 12/8/2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Barbara Brusini, Steve Mendes, Ken Powell, Bethany Warburton, and Nicole Rainville.

Others Present: Richard Friend.

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

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### Introductions:

Mr. Friend announced that as of yesterday he regrettably resigned from the Cove Commission, effective immediately due to his planned relocation to North Carolina. He was grateful to have had the opportunity to serve on the board and offered his best wishes for the Commission's continued success. Mr. Friend informed the Commission that he would still be local for the next several months if the board or staff needed to contact for any institutional knowledge. As an outgoing comment Mr. Friend has a sneaky suspicion the EGYC has more moorings than what they are allowed and the Commission should investigate the matter.

### Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Powell to approve the September 3, 2015 minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Mendes. Approved 5-0. (There was no meeting in October and lack of a quorum in November cancelled that meeting.)

### Harbormaster Report:

Mr. Cullen informed the Commission that the Harbormaster boat has been pulled out of the water, has been winterized and is being stored at Fire Station #2 for the winter. He also has been watching the dredging work taking place at the Goddard Park boat ramp which has been going on for the last month; the work is being done by the same company that installed the EG town dock. Mr. Cullen advised the board he happened to be patrolling the town dock area when he walked into RIDOT officials who were surveying the town dock area; when he questioned why they were in the area RIDOT Supervising Planner Julie Oakley responded that they are in the very preliminary stages of resurrecting the state ferry system. If the town had any questions she could be reached at [Julie.oakley@dot.ri.gov](mailto:Julie.oakley@dot.ri.gov).

### Staff Report:

Staff and the Commission members were very interested to get an update on the Harris legal situation.

## RI CRMC Shoreline Change Special Area Management Plan

Ms. Hitchen passed out information regarding a very user friendly mapping website which is designed for municipalities and residents to better understand their risk from coastal inundation. The site allows one to find out how vulnerable a particular property is to storm surge, how deep the water can be during a 100-year storm as well as projected sea level rise and affects to a property.

### July 2016 Fireworks Proposal:

Mr. Mendes updated the Commission on the progress he has made with the proposed July 2016 fireworks display noting the following: he talked with Tom Rosa of RIDEM Fish & Wildlife who had no issue with fireworks; RIDEM Chief of RI Parks, Bob Paquetts also had no issues holding fireworks on the Cove – Mr. Paquette indicated park staff works late on July 4<sup>th</sup> so Goddard Park will be open for parking and general public to see the display. He added ports-pottys are available from Diffley & Daughters; lighting is very expensive; he informed Bruce Keiser, the Director of Administration at Warwick City Hall about the proposed fireworks who would forward the info to city staff. Additionally, Mr. Mendes spoke with Atlas Pyro Vision regarding a rain date – the fallback schedule would simply be the next day. Finally he spoke with the Point Judith Coast Guard Station to inform them of the fireworks and a mariner advisory would be requested to handle boat traffic in the upper Cove.

The Commissioners recommended Job Site Construction (Rambo) as a place for lighting rentals. Mr. Powell had concerns for birds and wildlife and the effects fireworks would have on them. Mr. Mendes mentioned the first agency he called was Fish and Wildlife to confirm the fireworks would not interfere with any habitat.

Mr. Powell also suggested there may be a better spectator turnout if the firework display is held around Summer's End. Mr. Mendes noted the sponsor, Dr. Lewis of West Bay Dental, would like to have a July 4<sup>th</sup> display.

### 2016 Meeting Schedule:

The Commission unanimously changed the monthly meeting to the second Monday of the month to meet at 5 pm in the second floor conference room of Town Hall.

Ms. Hitchen thanked Mr. Friend for his time, leadership and dedicated service to the community. She noted Mr. Friend was instrumental to the Cove Commission as he has a vast historic knowledge of the Cove as well as legal background in marine affairs. Mr. Friend will be missed as he transitions to life in North Carolina.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Warburton, seconded by Ms. Rainville.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.