

Cove Commission meeting notes

Date- 4/19/2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Barbara Brusini, Steve Mendes, Ken Powell, Bethany Warburton and Mark Shapiro.

Commissioners Absent: Nicole Rainville

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

Introductions:

New Cove Commissioner Mark Shapiro was introduced; he gave a brief background of himself.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Warburton motioned to approve the January 11, 2016 and March 14, 2016 minutes as written. Seconded by Ms. Brusini. Approved 4 – 0.

Summary of Meeting on April 1st with Veronica Masson, Federal Aid Coordinator with RI Division of Fish & Wildlife:

Ms. Warburton summarized the meeting noting that she and Ms. Hitchen met with Veronica Masson. Ms. Masson reviewed with us the different funding sources that may be available to East Greenwich for waterfront and boating infrastructure access and improvements. We discussed the RI DEM Recreation Development Grant which can include the dredging around the town dock area and existing boat ramp repairs/improvements; matching funding is required for this grant and is due May 27th to DEM.

As for the US Fish & Wildlife Boating & Infrastructure Grant Program which opens in May, we will need to have the grant drafted by mid-August in order to present to Ms. Masson before she submits it for a decision by March 2017. The "Tier 2" is a Nationally Competitive Grant while "Tier 1" is administered via State DEM where much of the funds are earmarked in advance. The thought is to consider the Barbara Tufts ROW for a transient boating dock/"center" where we can build a dock/viewing area for transient boaters; build out showers and bathrooms, wifi, electrical, water and related facilities for transient boaters as well as goatscape the heavily vegetative pathway to waterfront. The Barbara Tufts ROW/London St. ROW proximity to the waterfront restaurants and Main Street businesses presents a major economic impact potential for bringing in out-of-state/town boaters. The Town can work with Providence, Bristol and Newport transient boater docks to cross promote all of the state's historic waterfront boating tourism destinations (NK is in the process of developing a dock as well.)

In order to receive grant funding the infrastructure must support boats that are at least 26' long, support transient boaters and be "necessary and reasonable." Congressman Langevin's office will write a letter of support and Ms. Masson noted she can get other states to write letters of support as well. Matching money is required – minimum of 25 percent but each percentage matched above that helps in

the grant scoring (via private pledges, in kind, local, state funding, etc.). Ms. Masson indicated she would provide submissions of grant winner recipients, such as Bristol and Newport.

Preliminary Idea of Town Marina:

The Commissioners discussed the idea of reversing their proposed notion of having the harbormaster office and town marina at the Rocky Hollow ROW and instead putting it at the existing town dock/boat launch and making the Rocky Hollow ROW a launch for kayaks, canoes and skiffs as well as a scenic viewing destination. There appeared to be numerous advantages to constructing a harbormaster office with town marina at the existing town dock/boat launch instead due to depth of water (although dredging would still be required although not as much), access, more parking. The Town owned land has more waterfront frontage from the boat ramp, transfer station and treatment plant. The Town could, assuming permits, build a larger marina, possibly up to 70 slips, and be profitable. From an economic development standpoint, the Commissioners thought the marina would provide incentives for existing businesses and be a great reason to move the existing transfer station to a different location in Town. The thought was to incorporate commercial fisherman as well as the quahog industry into the master plan in order to obtain grant money from every aspect angle as the Town could possibly bring in up to \$189,000 in revenue per year (30' x \$90/ft x60-70 slips). Dredging will still be necessary and the total cost could be in the range of \$500,000 if all utilities are included (bathrooms, water, pumpout, etc) at the marina. Obtaining the money through grants, and bonding still needs further research. Staff will contact CRMC for a preliminary discussion and try to obtain an idea regarding the overall market for moorings/slips in RI. Additional "things to do" include getting in touch with dockbuilders, preparing a master plan and RFP.

Harbormaster Report:

Mr. Cullen noted 10 mooring owners from last year did not renew and there are about 6 openings to date. The Fire Department has promised to have the harbormaster boat prepared and ready to go in the water by the upcoming weekend (April 23rd).

July 2016 Fireworks at Greenwich Cove – Update from Mr. Mendes

Mr. Mendes said he has approval from the Coast Guard for the July 4th fireworks display and has a contract from Atlas, the company putting on the display. He has also obtained liability insurance as requested by Town Council. West Bay Dental will be sponsoring the fireworks and paying for everything. Mr. Mendes will be advertising the fireworks in the Patch, town website as well as school media.

(Ms. Warburton left the meeting at 6:20 pm)

Mr. Cullen informed the Commission he has the ability to use his own boat if the harbormaster boat is out of commission.

Elections:

Tabled until the following meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Brusini, seconded by Mr. Powell.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.