

Cove Commission meeting notes

Date- 8/16/2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Mark Shapiro, Steve Mendes and Ken Powell

Commissioners Absent: Barbara Brusini, Nicole Rainville and Bethany Warburton.

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

Approval of Minutes:

June 13, 2016 minutes tabled to following month.

Waterfront Master Plan

Ms. Hitchen thought it would be a good idea to start discussing preliminary ideas of what the Commission would like to see and incorporate into the Waterfront concept plan; she added the Planning Department is still trying to incorporate Roger Williams University architecture students into the planning process. The Commissioners mentioned also incorporating New England Tech students into the project.

The Commissioners mentioned having a “rawbar” dock for commercial fishermen to sell their catch, ie a “coop” dock; unblock the fish ladder, relocate the transfer station, boardwalk along the Cove, additional racks for skiffs, kayaks, and canoes, and flora and fauna signage.

Remove the floating docks – it was mentioned that Peter Anderson suggested including the derelict docks in the Harris Shack demolition. Staff would inquire with Town Management.

Recap of the July 4th Fireworks Display

Mr. Mendes said he received a lot of positive feedback about the July 4th Fireworks display but the general turnout was lower than he expected. He is thinking of pigging backing off of the Summer’s End event next year in order to not have to duplicate fees for port-a-pottys, fire, police details. He felt Atlas, the fireworks contractor was subpar as they double booked a fireworks display and communication and logistics with the company was a nightmare. Most of the restaurants and stores on Main Street were closed although there was activity along the waterfront. Goddard Park had closed earlier in the day even though Mr. Mendes was told by DEM staff it would remain open for the duration of the fireworks. Most people who came to Scalloptown to watch the fireworks display viewed the display from the entry roadway and did not walk to the top of the park which caused a bottleneck. The lighting appeared to be an issue and a better system will be needed next year. If the same venue is used next year a shuttle service should also be implemented as well as a band and possibly a banner at Town Hall. All in all it was a great event but definitely thinking of joining forces with Summer’s End.

Harbormaster Report

Mr. Cullen informed the Commission the boating season so far has been relatively trouble free. He has attended a Blessing of the Fleet, the Fireworks display and a couple of Regattas.

The harbormaster boat is still running and Mr. Cullen has been informed the Town will not be selling it, therefore money will have to be put towards maintenance. Mr. Cullen will have NE Inflatable prepare an estimate on required maintenance such as wiring tubes, depth sounder, repowering mechanics and a used motor – he estimates a cost of between \$5000-6000 in repairs. There was a quick discussion of whether it is worth it to purchase a “newer used” boat in the ball park of \$20,000 as the Town may get a better “bang for the buck” in the long run. Staff was not sure what particular budget line item the maintenance repairs for the boat would come from which triggered a potential discussion regarding the future of the harbormaster boat with the Town Manager, Harbormaster and Staff.

Mooring Issues

Mr. Cullen noted there is no mooring issues per se but believes there is a need to address the issue of anchoring in the Cove. He thinks the idea should be addressed in the Town’s ordinance; Warwick addresses it in their ordinance with a 48 hour maximum timeframe and with the permission of the harbormaster.

Elections:

Tabled until the following meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mr. Powell.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.