COASTAL POND MANAGEMENT COMMISSION DRAFT MINUTES

Town Hall (WebEx)

Charlestown, Rhode Island

March 1, 2021

Chairman Rob Lyons declared a quorum was present. And called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Present:
Chairman Rob Lyons
Jeffrey Burns
Rich Thomsen
Art Ganz
Robert Krause
Lynn Macalister - Ex-officio member (Chairman – Charlestown Conservation Commission)

Absent:
Mike Roy
Bill Wilson

Town Staff:

Justin Vail – Harbor Master

Guests:
Deb Carney - Charlestown Town Council President
Azure Cygler - Coastal Research Associate, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Extension Specialist, RI Sea Grant – Coastal Research Center, University of Rhode island - NOAA Aquaculture Interpretive Signage Project
Kevin Cute – Marine Resources Specialist at Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC)
Jim Milardo – RHODE ISLAND MOBILE SPORTFISHERMEN, INC. (R.I.M.S.)

Secretary's Report:
Upon motion duly made by Rich Thomsen and seconded by Robert Krause it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2021 Coastal Pond Management Commission meeting.

Financial Report:
Harbor Master Justin Vail reviewed February 2020 (FY 2020-2021) financials.

Harbormaster Report:
Harbor Master Justin Vail reviewed status of mooring permit renewals. Renewals emailed to the holders.

Upon motion duly made by Rich Thomsen and seconded by Robert Krause it was voted unanimously to approve the revision of the agenda to accommodate New Business first, specifically the NOAA Aquaculture Interpretive Signage project as presented by Azure Cygler.

New Business
Azure Cygler reviewed Interpretive Sign Project to showcase Rhode Island commercial fishing heritage. 2 new NOAA Aquaculture Interpretive Signs for aquaculture education, 1 in Charlestown for Ninigret Pond. Sign is 24"x36", single post with text/pictures tiled 45 degrees. Discussed additional art/flyers containing same content

as the signs. CPMC has $1000 budgeted for public outreach. Potential locations include Charlestown Breachway (obtain DEM permission) or Ninigret Fish Wildlife Grassy Point location (view of Aquaculture locations) or Ninigret Kayak Launch. Like to have signs installed before summer season.

Quonochontaug Sand Trail – Westerly working on public ROW south of Quonochontaug salt pond. Charlestown side partially owned by Nopes Island Conservation Association and others, including State of Rhode Island. Jim Milardo provided background of R.I.M.S. usage and acquisitions. Kevin Cute reviewed his understanding of the ROW work by Westerly. GIS maps for the area were reviewed, including property ownership and satellite photo of the area (2016).

Old Business

- Mooring Field Modifications
    - Status - Harbor Master Justin Vail provided the final draft GIS (Steve McCandless) prepared maps. Justin reviewed the mooring fields at a high level. Add to agenda/advertise (May) for a public hearing (June). Would be included in Chapter 96 of the mooring ordinance.
- Right of the Way (ROW) Subcommittee – (incorrectly labled as Mooring Committee in agenda)
    - Minutes from Feb 12th Meeting – Not available
    - Action Plans (dependent upon capital budgets – June timeframe for vote)
        - Charlestown Launch adjacent to Beach Parking
            - Survey, combine entrance
        - Town Dock – Clean up and improve parking
        - Sea Colony Lot – Bike parking / walking / fishing
            - Survey
    - Discussion and potential action regarding providing an update to the Town Council on the status of improving access to the ponds
- Harbor Master Search Status – Recommendation provided to the Town Council. 3 candidates. Requires Town Council approval.

Public Comment:

See new business.

Upon motion duly made by Rich Thomsen it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:51PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: ___ As written
___As amended

Date_____

Rob Lyons