Town of Charlestown

Coastal Ponds Management Commission

Police Station

June 2, 2025

Present: Chm. Lyons, Rob Krauss, Rich Thomsen, Joe Catalano, Sean Carpenter, Griff Trow and Art Ganz, also: Deb Carney, Paul Casey, and Jerry Kells

Guests: Ben Goetch, CRMC and Matt Behan, aqua culturist

Meeting was called to order at 7pm

Agenda change to allow the CRMC hearing early (motion Rich, second Joe) motion carried unanimously.

CRMC Preliminary site determination

Ben outlined the process and proposal for two items proposed by Matt Behan (CRMC # 2014-08-013 and CRMC # 2025-05-013)

1) Locate a one-acre winter storage site
2) Expand an existing lease site by 3 acres formerly Walrus & Carpenter lease

The proposed leases would expand the total acreage under aquaculture to 74.55 acres, just short of the maximum acreage allowed by CRMC. There were no objections to the 3 acre expansion, however discussion of alternative locations for the winter storage took place. The proposed location would conflict with the existing mooring field, a suggested location near the applicant's residence would conflict with the DEM Spawner Sanctuary. The general support was for a site located south and east of the mooring field, near Mud Cove.

The hearing adjourned

Commission Meeting

Minutes of the May meeting were approved unanimously (motion Rich, second Joe)

Financial: (written report)

- Recommendation for the Treasurer to retain $50,000 in the Washington Trust account and remainder to an interest bearing account

Harbormaster Report:

- 14 private and 5 riparian mooring permits have expired and 6 have given up their moorings. Paul will follow up and re-assign moorings to those on the wait list as needed
- Boating safety class went well with 15 attending
- No Wake buoys in place
- Still waiting for a police radio for the new patrol boat

Breachway Restoration;

- State funding is budgeted awaiting final approval`,
    - $5 M transferred from DEM to CRMC for construction
    - $2M from CRMC for dredging
    - $1.4M in Charlestown's Fund for dredging
- Permits should be in place by July
- Work can begin Fall 2025

Harbor Management Plan Revision:

- From CRMC, regulations concerning helix moorings in eelgrass does not need to be addressed in the revised plan, already covered in CRMC red book
- Since new town ordinances are not yet up-dated, the HMP will include a guide to existing harbor ordinances

- Once the subcommittee completes its review and recommendations, it is still unclear how and who in town staff will compile and write the actual plan.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm