

## COASTAL POND MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

Police Station  
Old Post Road  
Charlestown, Rhode Island

July 7, 2014

Chairman Rob Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:39PM.

### **Present:**

Chairman Rob Lyons  
Rich Phelan  
Harbor Master Justin Vail  
Jeffrey Burns  
Bob Smith  
Robert Krause  
Peter Arnold

### **Absent:**

Mike Roy

Chairman Rob Lyons declared a quorum was present.

### Guests:

Steve McCandless  
David Beutel  
Arthur Ganz  
Jim Arnoux

### Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the May 5, 2014 meeting were reviewed.

Upon motion duly made by Bob Smith and seconded by Rich Phelan, it was **Voted** unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2014 Meeting.

### Communications:

None

### Financial Report:

Harbor Master Justin Vail provided an overview of “ Actual vs. Budget 5/1-6/30 ”  
Harbormaster Budget (FY 2013 - 2014).

### Harbor Master Report:

Channel markers have been updated within Ninigret and Quonnie. The Quonnie channel required 2 additional markers to accommodate additional turns. The town has received good feedback regarding the rock removal in the Ninigret Breachway.

#### Mooring Renewals, Status, Waiting List, On-line Services

Staffing Schedule – discussed the need for improved patrol presence on the ponds.  
Shady Harbor Commercial Moorings – In front of Shady Harbor right-of-way's. The harbor master had determined at most 4 would fit.

Waiting List- Applicant Rice Appeal -

#### Old Business:

Harbor Master Justin Vail brought the new Harbormaster Boat to the meeting. The radio must be installed and the boat is to be put in service in 2 weeks (on / before 24-Jul).

The bid specification (used boat for sale) for the Charlestown Harbor Master boat (20' Maritime) in review with the Town Manager. To be concluded 15-Aug.

#### New Business:

##### Harbor Management Plan CRMC Revision List

Reviewed the Harbor Management Plan - Aquaculture Plan. The Aquaculture plan is out-of-date and does not reflect current commercial usage nor current CRMC policy. The intent is to revise the plan to address current reality. Harbor Master Justin Vail displayed the GoogleEarth map for Ninigret Pond and over-laid the 10 existing aquaculture leases and mooring fields. Justin will work with Steve McCandless to add a layer to reflect the Ninigret Spawner Sanctuary and closed waters. Jim Arnoux reviewed gear management, gear cleaning and type has evolved over time to adapt to weather.

Dave Beutel reviewed five options for improved aquaculture management (i.e. standardized marking, mapping future locations). Dave described the Block Island solution for winter storage of gear in deep water, using a town owned lease where CRMC has waived fees for the lease. Art Gantz described the two original (1978) Spawner Sanctuaries in Quonnie and Weekapaug locations were determined to take advantage the prevailing south west winds to spread the seed across the ponds for replenishment.

1.5% of the 5% limit is Ninigret is under lease per Dave Beutel / Steve McCandless Art Ganz discussed that Salt Ponds Coalition had recommended 1% of slat pond acreage for aquaculture.

Reviewed CRMC position regarding locating aquaculture in polluted waters to clean the waters. RI Division of Health is an obstacle. Commercially, this increases complexity but is the norm w/in Connecticut.

Some common complaints: gear stored in marsh coves, mooring aluminum skiffs at lease site, gear stored on rafts

Jim Arnoux suggested consideration of using underutilized space within the Spawner Sanctuaries for closed cages, combining two uses into a single area.

Review Current Leases (10), State Policies, Application Process  
User Conflicts

Steve McCandless reviewed DOI Marsh Restoration Grant (\$3,250,000). \$100K town match and \$423,650 matched by the state. Expect to dredge 78,000 cu-yds. Timeframe is dredge season 2015 as existing 10 year permit must be modified. Similar effort under way in the Narrow River.

Public Comment:

None

Upon motion duly made by Jeffrey Burns and seconded by Rob Krause, it was **Voted** unanimously to adjourn at 10:14 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: \_\_\_ As written  
\_\_\_As amended

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Robert Lyons