

COASTAL POND MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

Police Station
Old Post Road
Charlestown, Rhode Island
November 3, 2014

Vice Chairman Rich Phelan called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

Present:

Robert Krause
Jeffrey Burns
Rich Phelan
Mike Roy
Harbormaster Justin Vail

Absent:

Chairman Rob Lyons
Bob Smith

Vice Chairman Rich Phelan declared a quorum was present.

Guests:

Dave Beutel (CRMC)
Nicholas Papa (Application - CRMC 2014-9-16)
James Arnoux (Application - CRMC 2014-10-22)
Richard Sartor (Representing Board of Directors of Salt Ponds Coalition - 450 members)

Preliminary Determination Request - Joint Agency Review Aquaculture Lease Proposals

1. CRMC 2014-09-016 - Nick Papa - Currently has 6 acres of aquaculture on the south shore of Ninigret pond. Farming original location since 2009. Nick provided an over view of the proposed location, approximately 20 acres. The gear would be 5' below the surface (5' water over cages @ mean low tide, 6' water over cages @ mean high)(Exceeds Army Corp of Engineers guidelines for water over cages) and would not impede power boats or sail boats. Nick high lighted product yields have been reduced due to "crowding". Nick has agreed w/ Dave Beutel to eliminate shallows (approximately 5 acres for new total 15 acres) from the proposal. For shallow areas, Nick proposes seeding oysters and hard shells in the shallows. Ninigret size is 1711 acres, CRMC permits 5% usage, approximately 86 acres. 1.4% currently farmed (approximately 21.5 acres)(per Steve McCandless, CPMC 10.6.14 meeting minutes). No vessel will be permanently moored. lease markers - 4 signs (steel) on PVC poles @ corners is minimum, Nick would like to increase for improved visibility due to the size. Dave B. reviewed CRMC and town in discussion for consistent marking. Typically work 20 hrs/week but could work 7 days/week. Nick noted his cages are 12" and 18".

Richard Sartor noted a water testing station in the northwest corner of the proposed aquaculture. Richard reported a maximum depth @ high tide of 7'6" in the proposed location, which equates

to 6'6" @ mean high tide. Richard indicated concern for increased risk of injury for skiers due to the cages. Richard reported water station tests for dissolved oxygen, 31 of 34 tests have ranged 1.8 - 2.8 mg/L, whereas the state limit for aquaculture is 4.8mg/L. Richard reported the problem is getting worse.

Richard provided several recommendations on behalf of Salt Ponds Coalition:

- a) < 1% should be considered for aquaculture (when removing, breakwater, marinas, mooring fields, navigation channels)
- b) Use corner markers only, no cages, buoys, bottom culture only
- c) Move lease area at least 600' to the south

2. CRMC 2014-10-22 - James Arnoux - Expand existing site, using the same gear and methods. Works a couple days per week. Depth range from 2 - 3-1/2'. Richard Sartor indicated endorsement of this application. Jim is working to reduce density and improve growth.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the October 6, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Upon motion duly made by Jeffrey Burns and seconded by Rob Krause, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2014 meeting.

Financial Report:

Harbormaster Justin Vail presented an overview of Actual vs. Budget - October 2014

Harbormaster Report:

Harbormaster Justin Vail provided copies of waiting list. Justin to start removing the buoys in Quonnie other than the 2 primary channel markers.

Old Business:

Harbor Management Plan

Harbormaster informed commission he has been taking notes at commission meetings and some sections of plan are already in place. Met with Rob Lyons for some initial reviews.

Aquaculture Plan

Aquaculture Plan needs to be reviewed. Town and Salt Pond coalitions may seek leases. Steve McCandless went over current leases which comprise of approximately 21.5 acres or 1.4 percent of pond. Foster cove is included.

Upon motion duly made by Jeffrey Burns and seconded by Mike Roy, it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: ___ As written
 ___As amended

Date _____

Rich Phelan