

# COASTAL PONDS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

Police Station  
4901 Old Post Road  
Charlestown, RI  
**February 4, 2019 7:30 PM**

**Present:** Chairperson Rob Lyons, Robert Krause, Bill Wilson, Mike Roy  
Charles Glew

**Absent:** Jeffrey Burns, Rich Thomsen

**Quorum:** Chairperson Rob Lyons declared a quorum of 5 present and the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

**Guests:** Mark Keeley

**Town Staff:** Justin Vail, Steve McCandless

## **Secretary' Report:**

Minutes of the January 7, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

Upon motion to accept the minutes, Charles Glew, and seconded, Robert Krause, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

## **Financial Report:**

Harbormaster Justin Vail presented the January 2018 Financial Report.

## **Harbormaster Report:**

Justin reported that mooring renewals were to go out in early March.

Applications will be sent by email with hard copy available on request only.

## **CRMC Applications:** Mark Keeley CRMC # 2017-11-61

Mr. Keeley presented a letter written to CRMC on January 23, 2019 requesting amendments to his oyster farm application number above.

He requested the committee review this letter, as well as the letter written to CRMC on April 16, 2018, to determine if he has made sufficient accommodations to resolve the issues outlined in a CPMC letter written to the Town Council on February 5, 2018 requesting the TC endorse the CPMC objections to his Aquaculture Application.

A review of the issues from the CPMC letter of February 5, 2018 and the accommodations made by Mr. Keeley were outlined by Bill Wilson.

1. **Under Water Racks** - The CPMC conducted a site visit to the proposed farm. It was determined that the proposed shoreline setbacks were not sufficient to ensure the Racks were under water at mean low tide. The recommendations made at the time of this site visit were adopted by Mr. Keeley in his letter to CMRC of April 16, 2018 item # 1, with associated site plan changes included.
2. **Aquaculture farm placed in Mooring Field** - In the letter addressed to CRMC of January 23, 2019 item # 1, Mr. Keeley submitted a redesigned site plan positioning the racks entirely outside the existing mooring field.
3. **Land-based Support Activities** – In the original application Mr. Keeley indicated he would conduct all land-based support activities on his lot abutting the farm site. In the letter addressed to CRMC on April 16, 2018 Item #3, Mr. Keeley indicated he would not perform land-based aquaculture activities on land located in Charlestown.
4. **Safety and Navigation** – In the original application racks were placed 12ft from docks with no fairway access to the pond. Letters of non-objection were obtained from effected dock owners. To the north a dock owner who objected was provided with 50 ft of clearance around the dock and the 50 ft was maintained as a fairway to the pond from the dock. This is the same clearance required by CRMC for a boat swinging from a mooring. In the letter addressed to CRMC on January 23, 2019 item #2, Mr. Keeley indicated that if a non-objector has a change of opinion and formally requests equipment be removed from close proximity to the dock, he would be willing to negotiate a mutually agreed upon setback up to 50 ft.

A motion was made by Bill Wilson, second by Robert Krause  
If CRMC adopts the modifications to aquaculture application 2017-11-06, made by Mr. Keeley in his letters on January 23, 2019 and April 16, 2018 then the CPMC is satisfied that the reasons for objection outlined in the letter of February 5, 2018 to the TC have been properly addressed.  
The CPMC has no issues with the application as modified and will forward this update to the TC.  
Following discussion, the motion was approved,  
3 yes, 0 apposed, 2 abstention

**Old Business:**

Steve McCandless provided the commission with a detailed summary of both dredging projects.

Quonnie pond dredging has been completed with approximately 80,000 cubic yards of sand removed from the pond and added to the adjacent salt marsh, as a marsh and eel grass restoration project.

Ninigret pond dredging is also completed with equipment removed this week. Approximately 38,000 cubic feet of sand was removed and deposited on Charlestown Beach to improve navigation and water flow.

**Submerged Aquatic Vegetation.**

CRMC approved the HMP under the condition that a few items be addressed within 1 year. The last of these items involved the definition and preservation of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation and Shallow Water Habitats. The commission had reviewed the policy language last month and requested changes. Justin Vail incorporated these changes and presented them to the commission.

A motion was made by Bill Wilson and seconded by Charlie Glew  
The commission accepts the proposed definition 96.2 Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) and accepts the Proposed Ordinance 96.11 Preservation of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation and Shallow Water Habitats as submitted. Following discussion, the motion was approved,  
4 yes, 0 apposed, 1 abstention

**New Business:**

Rob Lyons informed all Commission Members that their membership was expiring and if you wished to remain on the commission you are required to complete an application for TC consideration.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjourned:** As there are no additional addenda items to discuss, Rob Lyons Commission Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

William H. Wilson

Date: 2.4.2019