

# COASTAL POND MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

## Police Station

Charlestown, Rhode Island

June 4, 2018

Chairman Rob Lyons declared a quorum was present. And called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

### **Present:**

Chairman Rob Lyons  
Mike Roy  
Jeffrey Burns  
Rich Thomsen  
Bill Wilson  
Robert Krause

### **Absent:**

Charles Glew

### **Guests:**

Caitlin Chaffee – CRMC  
Stephen McCandless – Charlestown GIS  
Virginia Lee – Charlestown Town Council  
David Prescott – South County Coastkeeper, Save The Bay

### **Town Staff:**

Harbormaster Justin Vail

### **Secretary's Report:**

Upon motion duly made by Bill Wilson and seconded by Rich Thomsen it was voted to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2018 meeting as amended (spelling errors fixed).

### **Financial Report:**

Harbormaster Justin Vail reviewed Actual vs. Budget – May 2018.

### **Harbormaster Report:**

All channel markers in place in Ninigret. The channel has about 2' depth near the state public ramp (south of Ward Island). Mooring cancellations issued for non-renewals and new mooring notifications mailed.

### **New Business**

Ninigret breach way Maintenance Dredging - Rob Lyons discussed discharging sand dredging's south of "Elbow Beach" near end of the west wall, where historically a dune existed. Leverage equipment mobilization in Quonnie.

Online tide gauges to be installed in Ninigret (Fort Neck Cove) and Quonnie (location TBD) by July that will be available from the town and state web sites. Town partnered with state, DEM, and URI.

Mooring Inspections and Certifications – There is a heavy work load and a shortage of mooring inspectors. Harbormaster Justin Vail noted that other towns require mooring inspectors to have liability insurance coverage. Rob Lyons / Mike Roy / Rob Krause recuse themselves as businesses offering mooring inspections (and maintain liability insurance). Harbormaster Justin Vail noted the Charlestown solicitor indicated the responsibility is between the inspector and the customer regarding liability insurance.

### **Old Business**

CRMC DEM Public Notice CRMC 2018-05-119 DEM WQC-18-082

- Quonochontaug Pond Dredging & Marsh Restoration (explicitly not to be used for beach restoration)

Caitlin Chaffee reviewed slides (Quonochontaug Salt Marsh Restoration Project – NOAA funded). Improve coastal resilience in light of rising sea levels. Reviewed marsh damage images and plans for marsh grass restoration on the sand flats. All dredge material will be used for marsh restoration. Could be 70,000 cu-yds of material. Target depth of 8' (below MLW). For eel grass restoration, depths of 4' are desired (outside channel). The channel width, depth, length acts as a sediment basin that will need to be periodically (probably 5+ years) maintained/dredged. CRMC is permitting phase, out to bid in July, mobilization for mid-November and dredging thru Dec. All equipment must be out of water by Feb 2019. Will obtain an ongoing maintenance permit (10 year). Dredging is only within the pond, not by breach way mouth/entrance or dog-leg. Ninigret 10 year permit will expire 2020. Quonnie permits requests have been submitted to RI DEM and Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE).

Stephen noted that tide timings/offset/depth should not be impacted.

Upon motion duly made by Bill Wilson and seconded by Rob Krause it was voted unanimously to recommend the Charlestown Town Council authorize \$250,000 contribution to the Quonochontaug Salt Marsh Restoration Project.

Upon motion duly made by Bill Wilson and seconded by Rich Thomsen it was voted unanimously to recommend the Charlestown Town Council authorize personnel time to initiate Ninigret maintenance dredge planning by July 2018. The design is to contribute to the protection of endangered wildlife habitat.

### Harbor Management Plan

Status Update – The plan is back from ACOE and is back with DEM  
Mooring Field - No news

### **Public Comment:**

See Old Business CRMC DEM Public Notice CRMC 2018-05-119 DEM WQC-18-082

Upon motion duly made by Jeffrey Burns and seconded by Rob Krause it was voted unani-  
mously to adjourn at 9:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: \_\_\_ As written  
X As amended

Date: September 5, 2018

Rob Lyons