

COASTAL POND MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

Town Hall

Charlestown, Rhode Island

August 1, 2016

Chairman Rob Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Present:

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

Absent:

NA

Chairman Rob Lyons declared a quorum was present.

Guests:

Dave Beutel – CRMC Aquaculture Coordinator
Virginia Lee – Town Council Liaison
David Lovesky - Preliminary Determination Request File # 201605007
James Beardsley - Preliminary Determination Request File # 201605007
Mark Keeley - Preliminary Determination Request File # 201605007
Scott Woodford - Preliminary Determination Request File # 201605007
Charles Massimi - Preliminary Determination Request File # 201605007
Michael DeMarche - Preliminary Determination Request File # 201605007
Gail Eagleson – Letter

Town Staff:

Harbormaster Justin Vail

New Business

See CRMC Preliminary Determination Request

Secretary's Report:

Upon motion duly made by Bill Wilson and seconded by Rich Phelan, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2016 meeting.

Financial Report:

Harbormaster Justin Vail presented an overview of Actual vs. Budget – June/July 2016 (FY 2015-2016).

Harbormaster Report:

July 4 weekend very busy but no incidents. Harbormaster Justin Vail discussed education opportunities regarding kayak operation in the breachway as well as swimming in the breachway. Discussed seasonal “no wake” zone near the Pond Shore mooring field and the breach way channel mouth.

CRMC Applications/Preliminary Determination:

Preliminary Determination Request File # 201605007 – David Lovesky, James Beardsley, Mark Keeley, Scott Woodford, Charles Massimi, Michael DeMarche

Discussion – 1-acre area. Bottom plant of Eastern Oysters in 239 bottom cages. The mean low water depth is a minimum of 9'. The cages will be located at > 7' from water surface. The cages are 4'x3' with 18" height. Cages will be maintained via SCUBA and raising cages (onto boat) for cleaning. Activity could be from April thru October, later if warmer. When a lease is approved, a lease is valid for 15 years. The lease is available to RI non-residents. There are 3 leases currently located in Quonnie using an area of < 1%. The application proposes 2X week cage/bag cleaning. Seed movement is regulated. Eelgrass has been reported in the area and may be an issue. Power washing of cages is not approved for new applications. The safety perimeter (50' radius) for SCUBA diving could be a navigation problem due to proximity to navigation channels. Per RI DEM, “No person shall use a warning flag in an area that obstructs navigation”. Per DEM Fish and Wildlife, the Quonnie boat launch is not approved for commercial operations but did not present any supporting evidence. Rob Krause inspected the boat ramp property deed and did not note any restrictions regarding activities.

The number of under water buoy's is a public concern. Trolling through the area is a concern.

If this goes to a full application, a Eel grass survey (July 1 – Sept 15) would need to be performed.

Reference: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/enforce/boats14t.pdf>

Old Business:

Harbor Management Plan – Draft to be completed in September for a public hearing

Public Comment:

Gail read a letter she authored to the committee regarding Ninigret Landing Marina concerning commercial vessels and their appearance.

Upon motion duly made by Rob Krause and seconded by Bill Wilson it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: As written
 As amended

Date: September 19, 2016

Rob Lyons