

COASTAL POND MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

Town Hall

Charlestown, Rhode Island

September 19, 2016

Chairman Rob Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:00 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:

Eric Schneider – RI DEM Marine Fisheries (DMF) Section, Principal Marine Fisheries Biologist
Dave Beutel – CRMC Aquaculture Coordinator
Nicholas Papa – East Beach Oyster Co., LLC
Steve McCandless – GIS Coordinator
Matthew Behan – Behan Family Farms

Town Staff:

Harbormaster Justin Vail

New Business

See CRMC Application / Preliminary Determination Request

Secretary's Report:

Upon motion duly made by Rich Phelan and seconded by Rich Thomsen, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2016 meeting.

Financial Report:

Harbormaster Justin Vail presented an overview of Actual vs. Budget – August 2016 (FY 2016-2017).

Harbormaster Report:

No issues as result of storm Hermine.

CRMC Applications/Preliminary Determination:

CRMC Public Notices

2016-06-099 RI DEM Oyster Reef Construction (Finfish Enhancement) Reef area #3

2016-06-100 RI DEM Oyster Reef Construction (Finfish Enhancement) Reef area #2

2016-06-101 RI DEM Oyster Reef Construction (Finfish Enhancement) Reef area #1

Eric Schneider reviewed the Fish Habitat Enhancement Project funded by the US FWS Sport Fish Restoration Program (SFR). Goal is to evaluate if construction of oyster reefs is a viable method for improving juvenile populations of important species of sportfish. Applications noted above (-099,-100, -101) are in support of this program. Reviewed that existing southwest sanctuary has no signs of oysters and high salinity and therefore not chosen as a locale.

See Public Comment below.

2016-08-092 East Beach Oyster Co., LLC Expansion and reconfiguration of existing Aquaculture site total area 13.22 acre site

Nicholas Papa – All bottom cultures for expansion but original lease has cages. The CPMC requested how the existing lease would be marked with the new lease (bottom culture). Steve McCandless noted the depth of the lease expansion would prevent and the areas are recorded with GPS coordinates and expansion will have new markers. See discussion noted below 2016-08-093.

CRMC Preliminary Determination

2016-08-003 Matthew Behan Family Farm Expansion

Dave Beutel and Matthew Behan reviewed the proposal. There was a discussion regarding some people conflicts with his lease but that all have been addressed with improved education and communication. No outstanding issues noted.

2016-08-093 East Beach Oyster Co. LLC 10.69 Acre Lease

Dave Beutel and Nicholas Papa reviewed the proposal (bottom plant site). The Oysters are diploid (reproduce). There was discussion regarding Nicholas Papa usage of SCUBE equipment in a high traffic location and concern for his safety. Nicholas noted the method he uses (flag on boat and basket near/on his person) and his awareness of surrounding vessels (easily heard under water) and stays on bottom when boats nearby. Nicholas uses a 50' hose connected to electric compressor location on his vessel. Concerns were expressed regarding boat access to barrier beach after expansion of lease. There was also a discussion regarding poaching and the significant distance between aquaculture markers and the potential need to add more markers to ensure lease boundary is clear.

Old Business:

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

DOI Grant Dredging Project Update – Awarded but yet accepted, therefore no announcement at this time.

CRMC RFP for Ninigret Pond

Town has a 10 year dredge permit (restoration only) for certain areas of Ninigret.

Public Comment:

Questions and answer session with Eric Schneider regarding the 3 public notices (-099,-100,-101).

Concerns were expressed regarding proximity of planned Oyster reef #3 referenced by 2016-06-099 w/in the Spawner Sanctuary and moorings. The reefs will be approximately 1' below MLW and some moorings owners may need to travel over/around the proposed reefs to reach their moorings. Eric Schneider indicated DEM would work with owners to address their concerns. There are 4 locations within the Spawner Sanctuary identified for reefs, but only 3 of the 4 would actually have a reef. The 4th “control” site could be used to provide a clear path to moorings.

The public and CPMC expressed concerns regarding the location of Oyster reef #2 referenced by 2016-06-099 outside the Spawner Sanctuary. Locating reefs in location #2 would further reduce available locations for recreational and commercial clamming. Rob Lyons suggested the oyster reefs referenced for location #2 be location within the Spawner sanctuary to provide relief to commercial/recreational clamming and improve enforcement.

Upon motion duly made by Rich Thomsen and seconded by Jeffrey Burns it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: ___ As written
 ___As amended

Date_____

Rob Lyons