

# COASTAL POND MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

## Police Station

Charlestown, Rhode Island

September 5, 2018

Chairman Rob Lyons declared a quorum was present. And called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

### **Present:**

Chairman Rob Lyons  
Mike Roy  
Jeffrey Burns  
Bill Wilson  
Robert Krause  
Charles Glew

### **Absent:**

Rich Thomsen

### **Guests:**

Eric Schneider – RI DEM, Div. Marine Fisheries  
Virginia Lee – Charlestown Town Council  
Art Ganz – President, Salt Ponds Coalition

### **Town Staff:**

Harbormaster Justin Vail

Upon motion duly made by Bill Wilson and seconded by Mike Roy, it was voted to adjust the meeting agenda to discuss agenda item “New Business” first.

### **Secretary’s Report:**

Upon motion duly made by Bill Wilson and seconded by Charles Glew it was voted to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2018 meeting as amended (update Financial Report month -> change April to May 2018)

### **Financial Report:**

Harbormaster Justin Vail reviewed Actual vs. Budget – June, July and August 2018

### **Harbormaster Report:**

Harbormaster Justin Vail reviewed notification (regarding mooring usage) that was emailed to ALL mooring permit holders. Notification regarding temporary mooring usage/process for education purposes. Issued 7-8 temporary mooring usage permits. Assisted with boat sinking outside Ninigret Breachway (boat hitting rock). Discussed new temporary/seasonal “No Wake”

zone in Ninigret. Coast Guard provided Kayak identification tags. Discussed some possible programs for 2019 to encourage / reward children usage of PFD's. Harbormaster Justin Vail to work with DEM regarding increased presence of spearfishing within the breachways to improve enforcement. Spearfishing within the breachways are not permitted.

### **New Business**

Eric Schneider reviewed the DEM Oyster Restoration-NRCS (USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service) EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) - Oyster Reef Creation & Monitoring Program (CRMC Permit application 2018-08-067). 5 year program with construction 1<sup>st</sup> 4 years (2018-2021) and monitoring the last 4 years (2019-2022). Each year ¼ of the plot is restored. Reviewed history of spawner sanctuaries in Quonnie and Ninigret. Discussed possible break up of older oyster reefs, complicating quahog harvesting in Ninigret. Reviewed sizing, placement and number of reefs. Reefs often located minimum of 1' below water surface to eliminate ice-scouring damage. Ref: [https://youtu.be/X\\_nKVcJo1tg](https://youtu.be/X_nKVcJo1tg)

Eric Schneider provided overview of the Fish Habitat Enhancement (FHE) Project 2017, monitoring and shellfish survey (clam suck). Work is ongoing. Reviewed 2016-2016 DEM Oyster Reef Monitoring and 2016-2017 EQIP Oyster Reef Monitoring. Data supports increase of fish presence, such as Black Seabass, Cunner, Striped Bass and Tautog.

Eric Schneider reviewed details of the CRMC Permit application 2018-08-067. The goal is to increase spawning stock biomass, aimed at increasing wild oyster population in Quonnie.

No motion/recommendation regarding CRMC Permit application 2018-08-067 at this time.

Ninigret Breachway Maintenance Dredging – Cannot share the Quonnie contract, therefore would need to be a separate contract.

Harbormaster Justin Vail reviewed Harbor Management Plan Final Acceptance and DEM stipulations regarding minor regulation updates.

Upon motion duly made by Bill Wilson and seconded by Rob Krause it was voted to recommend the Town Council write DEM a letter requesting a natural barrier be placed on the dune adjacent to the west wall of the Ninigret Breachway to prevent vehicles driving on/over the dune.

### **Old Business**

Quonochontaug Pond Dredging & Marsh Restoration - DEM Water Quality Permit issued. Bid results due this week.

### **Public Comment:**

See New Business notes

Upon motion duly made by Bill Wilson and seconded by Charles Glew it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: **XX** As written

\_\_\_As amended

Date: **October 1, 2018**

Rob Lyons