

Coastal Waters Commission Meeting Minutes, Feb 15, 2024

The Coastal Water Commission (CWC) held a Meeting at 6:00PM at the Chebeague Town Office on Thursday, FEB 15, 2023.

- I. Call Public Meeting to Order at 6:02 PM by chairman Justin Doughty**
In attendance: Justin Doughty, Alex Todd, Kevin Wentworth and Herb Maine. Harbormaster Genaro Balzano. Public: Beth Putnam.

- II. Public Comments and Correspondence**
H. Maine conveyed a communication with Carol White who asked if CWC would be willing to meet with members of the Chebeague Climate Action Team (CCAT) to review the marine uses of Chebeague waters. CCAT is undertaking an effort to mapping and would like CWC input on marine uses. This may help us in our effort to develop better criteria for reviewing aquaculture leases. The members present agreed on March 14th to hold a workshop with CCAT members to review Marine uses of Chebeague waters. H. Maine will follow up with CCAT about the proposed meeting date.

- III. Reports**
The Harbormaster submitted a written report (attached). Discussion included the need to submit a shellfish management plan and the challenges in doing that when the Shellfish Commission hasn't been active.

The report indicates two pre-application meetings were scheduled in February, Beth and Jeff Putnam's (occurred on Feb 5) and Max Burtis' will be on the 28th. The location map of the Burtis 11.37 acre site was show by the Harbormaster and discussed. Concerns were raised about the area being used for scalloping. The Harbormaster and CWC chairman Doughty are planning to attend the meeting.

- IV. Old Business**

Replacement Float Update.

- J. Doughty reported that the new float proposed by CWC has been ordered from Custom Floats Inc, and he understands materials have been ordered.

Aquaculture Update.

- Planned topics were already discussed during the Harbormaster's report.

Marine Infrastructure Plan.

- H. Maine walked the group through four pages of the 10 page plan. The group agreed to expand the scope of the plan from a float and ramp maintenance plan to a marine facilities plan. The group agreed to add the Stone Wharf wave break, Navigational Buoys and Town Moorings to the plan.
- Under Capital Planning the group agreed to raise the square foot cost estimate for float construction from \$60/sq ft to \$70 and adjust planning figures accordingly.
- The Stone Wharf boat ramp has been added to the planning document and includes a description of the planks and how they were obtained. The group agreed that 10' planks recommended by the ME-DACF are sufficient. The guidance page provided by ME-DACF will be added as an appendix to the plan.
- Action recommendations for next year. The suggestion to be more specific in the recommendation to have public services crew use the CWC checklist to evaluate the floats and return the completed forms to CWC for inclusion in a report.

Stone Pier Barge Ramp Grant.

- The replacement planks have been secured via a grant letter. Justin will take the lead on coordinating with the TA to determine the best way to get the planks delivered and installed.

V. New Business

a. Damage Assessment

The town conducted a damage assessment after the January Storm, CWC inspected the float system and compiled a report with the assistance of the harbormaster. Although the town marine infrastructure sustained little damage the exercise was useful to point out how CWC can be more ready for future event.

The biggest take-away was to have periodic photo records of at risk infrastructure in order to have before and after evidence when requesting assistance from MEMA or other agencies.

b. Aquaculture Lease Map

Chairman Doughty led a discussion to identify areas in Chebeague waters where the town might decide to discourage an aquaculture lease.

After some attempts to talk about areas of interest, the group decided to focus on some descriptive criteria as a starting point, some suggestions were:

1. Leases in waters greater than 40' are likely to be in areas that are fished for lobsters.
2. Gear left in the water beyond the time it takes to tend the product may interfere with navigation.
3. Sites adjacent to town facilities or possible future town facilities may interfere with navigation.

c. Mooring Software

The harbormaster is investigating options for mooring software. Particularly "Online Mooring LLC".

VI. Approval of Minutes: To approve minutes from October 11th, 2023

Motion: Moved by A. Todd to approve the minutes of 10/11/23, seconded by K. Wentworth.

Vote: All in Favor; Motion Carried

VII. Items to be placed on a future agenda.

- Continue working the marine facilities plan.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting at PM

Motion: Moved by K. Wentworth to adjourn at 7:15 p.m., seconded by A. Todd.

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**Respectively Submitted,
Herbert Maine, CWC Secretary**

Approved: 5/8/2024

DRAFT