



TOWN OF EAST LYME
EAST LYME HARBOR MANAGEMENT/SHELLFISH COMMISSION

Chairman
Stephen Dinsmore

Treasurer
Donald F. Landers Jr.

Secretary
Joseph L. Hitchery

Not official until approved by the Commission at its next regular meeting

June 16, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes; East Lyme Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Stephen Dinsmore; Joseph Hitchery; Donald Landers; William Mountzoures; and Greg Murin

Commissioners Absent: Barbara Johnston and Rick Kanter

Ex Officios Present: Marc Salerno and Deputy Harbor Master Marc Berger

Ex Officios Absent: Harbor Master Dick Morris

Others Present: Allen Steiger, local resident

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
June 18 2015 AT 4:19 AM/PM
[Signature]
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

1. Call to Order. Chairman Dinsmore called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 19, 2015

MOTION: Commissioner Murin moved to approve the May 19, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Landers. The motion carried. (4-0-1).

Abstention by Chairman Dinsmore who was not present at the May 19 meeting.

Chairman Dinsmore pointed out one correction on the Agenda: Approval of minutes of Regular Meeting Minutes of May 19.

3. Public Delegations

Allen Steiger, from East Lyme, off of Pine Grove, questioned the speed limit on the Niantic Channel. He was curious as to how many speeding tickets have been issued on the Niantic River in the past, and whether or not the Commission has any plans and/or strategies in order to address the speed limit issues going on. His main concern was it was a safety hazard for kayakers and people maneuvering small sailboats in the area. He also mentioned that the high speeds caused damaging wake, which did disrupt the marine life in the area. He made suggestions to increase awareness, education, and communication with the public about the issue, and requested if the Commission could publish in their Meeting Minutes monthly the number of speeding tickets issued on the Niantic River in that month, just to keep the public informed.

Chairman Dinsmore addressed his concerns stating that the East Lyme and Waterford Police do monitor the speed zones on the River. Commissioner Landers added that it's unfortunate that the monitoring is not consistent, and that the days that they need to be out patrolling, which, during the summer, are from Friday afternoon until Sunday evening, tend to be the most sparse times when the Police are out on the

water. He did go on to say that whilst it is a busy time on the water, it also is the busiest season on the streets, as well, and so staffing may be an issue.

Chairman Dinsmore stated that if Mr. Steiger wanted to, he should approach Law Enforcement to request more surveillance. This comment was echoed by Commissioner Landers. Chairman Dinsmore also said that, if need be, the Commission can approach Law Enforcement, as well.

Commissioner Landers commented that Fred Grimsby is working on getting informational signs attached to the RR Bridge, although the regulations are quite specific. He agreed that a communication plan should be developed, alongside Law Enforcement Officials.

Mr. Salerno suggested that, since he receives a letter every month from Police Department regarding the number of street tickets issued, he will see if there's one regarding boating, and, if not, he will request it from the Police Department.

4. Reports

A. Shellfish. Commissioner Kanter is not here. Chairman Dinsmore reported current storm fall 0.5".

B. Harbor Master. Chairman Dinsmore said there is nothing to report from Mr. Morris, who is absent.

C. Treasurer. Commissioner Landers has no report. Chairman Dinsmore stated that the budget ends at end of this month (June 2015). Mr. Geoff Steadman has told Chairman Dinsmore that he is going to get an invoice to the Commission for his work completed, by the end of month.

D. Ex Officio. Mr. Salerno stated that, at the last First Selectman meeting, discussions included topics, such as the Fire Department's ladder truck is broken down. The plan is to get a new one. Also, items such as the tennis lights and dugouts were passed. He mentioned that the boardwalk was looking to open October 1st, as there were issues with metal sheeting, as well as the construction crew had hit some unexpected limestone. Additionally, a Public Town Meeting is to be held on this coming month for the budget items discussed.

On a different note, Mr. Salerno told the Commissioners that he had spoken to Lieutenant Colonel Danao from Camp Niantic after last month's Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission meeting. It was clarified that the Lieutenant Colonel's intentions were different than what was discussed at last meeting. Mr. Salerno raised the concerns to the Lieutenant Colonel about Camp Niantic shutting people out of restricted area completely, and requested for the Lieutenant Colonel to speak to the Board of Selectman. Commissioner Murin suggested that Commissioner Kanter should be present at that the meeting.

Mr. Salerno mentioned at last month's Harbor Management Shellfish Commission meeting plans for a possible acquisition of land from the New England Forestry. The Board of Selectman approved to contribute \$350 to purchase development rights. From this point forward, this proposal will go to Board of Finance. If approved, a Public Meeting will be held, followed by a

Referendum. This entire proposal is contingent on the agreement between Commissioners, the Board of Selectman, and the Applicant regarding conservation easement, which would tie up development on the property. The State is going to hold the easement and Town would be contributing, or the Town would wholly hold easement. The goal is to prevent development on the easement.

5. Old Business

A. Harbor Management Plan - Update. Chairman Dinsmore spoke with Mr. Steadman last week on Friday night. Mr. Steadman discussed during that meeting that he had plans to charter a plane from Chester airport, in order to take aerial photographs of the area. Mr. Steadman is going to try and incorporate the photographs into the Plan. He inquired of Chairman Dinsmore regarding to whom he should circulate the current revised Plan, without said photographs. The Commissioners came up with the following names to contact: Dave Putnam, Parks and Rec; Bill Mulholland, Zoning; Gary Goeschel, Planning; Art Carlson, Conservation; Peter Harris, WELSCO; Friends; Save the River.

Chairman Dinsmore questioned whether a 30-day window was enough time in order to get feedback from all of these groups. Mr. Salerno said it's not enough time for the Zoning Commission, but he doesn't foresee a problem with the Planning Commission. Chairman Dinsmore stated that he plans to send a letter to those listed above, that will instruct them that the Commission will be accepting comments from them through either the next Regular Meeting, or the end of July, whichever would accommodate more feedback. He goes on to say that DEEP is planning to give some final comments from Marcy Balint, who is currently on vacation. .

Commissioner Landers is concerned that there may be some issues once the boardwalk goes in, so he stated he's curious as to what Park and Rec has to say about the Plan. Chairman Dinsmore stated that after the comments are received and incorporated into the Plan, the final Plan will go to Board of Selectman, as well as the Town Attorney, along with the Ordinance. Mr. Salerno commented that the Ordinance looks mostly benign.

B. Port Authority Act - Chairman Dinsmore spoke with Mr. Steadman about its status. Right now, it's basically on fast track being pushed by the Governor. Mr. Steadman has reached out to many of the Agencies that are providing input, yet nobody has responded, to-date. Chairman Dinsmore suggested that Mr. Steadman call the Governor. Mr. Pinto is trying to call the Governor's office to see if we can provide some input into the ramifications of all of the major ports being under Port Authority and minor ports under Economic Development, yet it's indeterminate to where it's going to fall.

Commissioner Hitchery said he heard from Mr. Steadman that they were going to transfer Harbor Masters to DEEP. Transportation was to get out of harbor management entirely, with plans of transferring it to the Port Authority, who would manage all of the harbors. However, the Port Authority is not a State Agency. This topic could come up in Special Session, and would be in limbo until a final decision was made. Commissioner Landers said that the Feds need to get involved. The State Senator and the State Representative were contacted with no response. Chairman Dinsmore stated he will pass on any information he receives to the Commission.

6. New Business

A. Correspondence. A Notice of Filing with DEEP from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation was received, regarding the replacement of the bridge over Route 1, under 22(a)(6)(g) C.G.S. The State was asking for comments; and it was unclear from the Notice as to when they would initiate construction. Commissioner Murin has taken the Notice for review, and will pass it onto Commissioner Landers, with hopes of getting any feedback to the State that they deem necessary.

Commissioner Murin inquired regarding any pending projects that have not been completed, prior to the budget ending. Commissioner Landers indicated he wanted to get the stream gauge reinstated, as it will terminate at the end of June. He went on to say that he will ask for the PDF from Anna to show if the Commission has left out any expenditures.

7. Final Comments.

Commissioner Landers expressed appreciation to Commissioner Hitchery for delivering the letters to the Chairman of the Zoning Commission for reading at the last regular meeting, opposing the development of the Oswegatchie Hills.

Commissioner Hitchery advised that a concern was raised by Commissioner Johnston regarding this meeting. He clarified that the Town Clerk does not authorize meetings. The decision to authorize a Commission meeting is up to the Chairman and tonight's meeting was held as a previously publicized and scheduled regular meeting, as decided by Chairman Dinsmore. Commissioner Hitchery, the Secretary of the Commission, supported Chairman Dinsmore. Commissioner Landers also added that the meeting was authorized to be held back in December 2014.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Commissioner Landers moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. It was seconded by Commissioner Mountzoures. The motion carried. (5-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria O'Connor, Recording Secretary