

East Greenwich Cove Management Commission Minutes

August 23rd, 2022 Meeting

In-person meeting - Town Hall, Front Conference Room, 125 Main St., East Greenwich, RI 02818

Convened at 5:14 pm

Present: Tom Assad (Chair), Johann Patlak, Mark Shapiro, Bill Weedon

Staff: Andrew Wade (Director Parks and Recreation), Albert Ranaldi (Planning Director), Mark Paparelli (Harbor Master)

Mr. Assad called the meeting to order at 5:14 pm

1. Minutes of May 3rd, 2022, minutes of June 21st, 2022, and minutes of July 19th, 2022 were approved (Motion by Mr. Shapiro, second by Mr. Patlak, 4-0 in favor)
2. Public Comments - No public comments offered.
3. Harbormaster Report - Mr. Paparelli gave update on safety and boating issues in the Cove. Noted that general boating safety has been good this year. Has noted increase in illegal shellfishing activity within the restricted area of the Cove. There continue to be occasional issues with improper mooring use. Notes good communication with DEM for enforcement of issues outside of Harbor Master scope. Harbor master boat to come out of water after the Indigenous People's Day/Columbus Day weekend. Discussion regarding whether there is a role for the Town to restrict types of vessels allowed on moorings, prompted by presence of an unregistered barge on mooring. Members agree that proper registration of all vessels is the most important factor in allowing mooring use. The Harbor Master will continue to assess that vessels are secured to mooring balls in an appropriate and safe manner.
4. Planning Director Update - Mr. Ranaldi discussed plans for getting the planning department back up and running with the Waterfront Study Plan after recent staff turnover. Planning Department will be reaching out to planning contractor. Eventual plan will be submitted to Town Council for final review.
5. Review of Town Code - Mr. Assad addressed the specific responsibilities and authority of the Cove Commission as addressed in "Article II - Cove Management Commission" in the Town code. Initiated conversation about ideas and goals of each member present. Discussed best approaches for assisting the Town Council and most efficient forms of communication within Town government.
6. Review of Kayak Rack policies - Tabled for next meeting. Copy of current rules and policies distributed to members for review.
7. Future meeting dates set for September 20th, October 18th, November 15th, and December 14th, 2022.
8. Mr. Weedon noted that policy suggests that the East Greenwich Cove Management Committee and the Warwick Cove Committee should have reciprocal ex officio members. Members agreed that in principle this could be explored.

Meeting adjourned at 6:16pm (Motion by Mr. Shapiro, second by Mr. Weedon, 4-0 in favor)