

East Greenwich Cove Management Commission Meeting Minutes September 20, 2022 Meeting

In-person meeting – East Greenwich Town Hall Conference Room, East Greenwich, RI 02818
Convened at 5:00 pm

Committee Members Present:

Bill Weedon, Jane Eaton, Johann Patlak, Mark Shapiro, Ted Moulis

Staff Present: Andrew Wade (Community Services Director), Al Ranaldi (Planning Director), Mark Paparelli (Harbormaster)

1. Call to Order

- a. Bill Weedon called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of the August 23, 2022 meeting will be put on next month's agenda for approval.

3. Public Comments

- a. There were no public comments

4. Reports and Presentations

- a. **Harbormaster's Report** – Mark Paparelli

Mark provided an overview of the 2022 boating season. A summary of his overview is noted below:

- Bill Weedon requested a written report for the October meeting.
- This season was very different from last season; there were not as many issues.
- End of August there was an intentional boat sinking at the boat ramp. EG Police became involved. A citation was issued to the owner of the boat.
- The harbormaster's boat will be hauled for the season on Monday, October 10th. The boat will be winterized for storage on Tuesday, November 1st.
- Tom Assad requested Bill Weedon to present his concerns about the harbormaster having enough resources to perform his job.
- Mark responded his position is part-time from May to October. He manages his hours based on waterfront activity. His typical hours are Spring 15 hrs per week, Summer 25 hrs per week, and Fall 15 hrs per week. His primary responsibilities include managing the assignments and use of harbor moorings as well as ensuring harbor waters are clear for safe navigation. He is not an enforcement officer. He does however work in partnership with the Warwick harbormaster.
- Mark conveyed his concern that the EG Fire boat does not have a water pump to put out boat fires.
- Johann recommended that the role and the community service provided by the harbormaster be brought to the attention of the public. This will provide for a better understanding of the role of the harbormaster and also help:
 - define the boundaries within Greenwich Cove that EG is responsible for and,
 - provide a contact list from which people can call for various on-the-water and waterfront situations.

- Andy responded that he will reach out to Elizabeth McNamara of the East Greenwich News to request a “feature article” on the roles and community service provided by the harbormaster.
- To further support the harbormaster’s role, Johann recommended that the Parks and Recreation Department sponsor a family-centered educational event that highlights the town’s involvement with the harbor and waterfront. (i.e. to include the fire boat, ROW access locations, involve Coastal Resources Center educational resources, etc...)

b. **Planning Director’s Report** – Al Ranaldi

Al provided a progress update on the ongoing Waterfront Study. A summary of his update is noted below:

- Each committee member was provided a colored, 17 x 11, Waterfront Master Plan map prepared by Beta Consulting. The map’s legend identified:
 - Public ROW / Access Improvements
 - Waterfront Greenway Improvements
 - Harbor Improvements
 - Walkability Improvements
 - Parking / Infrastructure Improvements
 - Coastal Resiliency Improvements
- The purpose of the map is to provide a “big picture” of the goals for the Waterfront Master Plan. Al advised that more detailed planning information will be forthcoming.
- Al also noted that as the plan gains momentum there could be opportunities with upcoming projects for the committee to become actively involved.
- Issues that pertain to Coastal Resiliency (ie. climate change, floods, storm erosion, etc..) are a top environmental priority. The goals of the Waterfront Study are closely aligned with this priority.
- Committee discussion followed. Discussion highlights and Al’s responses are noted below:
 - Develop ScallopTown Park into a recreational site
Response: Town can not “uncap” or disturb this preserved dump site
 - Develop a walk/bike path along the waterfront
Response: Need to consider that parts of the waterfront are in a flood zone.
 - Build a cove observation tower or create vista viewing locations
Response: Need to consider ADA handicap accessibility.
 - Will the State of RI help cover the cost of bridge construction or repairs?
Response: Transponder fees collected for the State Transportation Improvement Plan could help cover these costs.

5. **Old Business**

a. **Review of Town Code 34, Article II Cove Management Commission** – Bill Weedon

• **Responsibilities**

Bill read to the committee the Responsibilities 34-5 E section under Article II. He noted that clarification was needed for the geographical reference of “in the area east of the Amtrak rail line”. The referenced portion of Section 34-5 E, as noted on the EG Town website, is noted below.

“Provide comments and recommendations to the Planning Department, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Review, Town Council or other entity on all public and private development proposals and any permit notifications from state agencies for activities in the area east of the Amtrak rail line.”^[1]

Editor’s Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. IV).”

- **Cove Management Commission goals and objectives for FY 2023**

The committee tabled this discussion until the committee chair, Tom Assad, could be present.

b. Kayak Rack Policies and Rules – Andy Wade

Andy distributed copies of the Kayak Management Plan to committee members. He reviewed the current plan policies and requested input from the committee for any suggestions or policy changes. Highlights of the discussion are noted below:

- Kayaks are being stored on designated town kayak and dinghy racks over the winter.
- Kayaks do not consistently have owner identification on them. A photo of a kayak should be provided as part of the annual rack registration process.
- Annual assignments to a town's kayak rack should be done as a lottery, not as an annual renewal. This will allow more residents to have access to the racks.
- If a renter decides not to use his/her assigned kayak rack for an extended period or for the season, they should contact the recreational department so that the rack can be reassigned for the period it is not being used.

6. Commission Comments

- a. There were no comments from committee members.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.