

Town of Chester
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HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

HMC Meeting

DATE: Wednesday November 02, 2022

TIME: 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Chester Town Hall

Minutes

Meeting came to order at 7:02 pm

In in attendance were Commissioner Kane, Commissioner Chillock, Commissioner King, Commissioner Brelsford, Commissioner Dean, and Harbor Master Libby

Commissioner Dean was seated as a full member for this meeting.

Commissioners continued discussion of the deteriorating condition of the Parkers Point boat launch, additional review of the current 1964 property survey map #79 and Warranty Deed Volume 33 page 503 & 504,.

Commissioners also reviewed preliminary survey estimates obtained from two local surveyors. Commissioner Kane made a motion to move the request for an updated property survey of the Town owned Parkers Point Boat Launch to the Board of Selectman, Commissioner Dean seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Chillock made the motion to request a sum of \$3600 to cover the cost of the updated survey be moved to the BOS for approval. The commissioners unanimously approved.

Commissioner Kane advised she received an email from First Selectman Janecek requesting the Commission consider championing the dredging of middle and northern sections of Chester Creek. The requested indicated the dredging would promote and encourage greater use of that section of the creek by Kayakers and other small watercraft. The Commissioners do not believe this project would receive DEEP approval given the fragility of the natural resources, which call that area of the creek home along with the challenge getting large dredging equipment into the area with out destroying the creek banks. Commissioners also noted that there hasn't been any

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previous interest or requests for expanded use of that portion of the creek. Additional information/justification needed from First Selectman Janecek.

Commissioners discussed the ongoing Hydrilla issues challenges the Marinas face within Chester Creek. Resident Joel Severance sent Chairman Kane an email indicating that, as a representative of the recently formed “Intercostal Region 2”, he is seeking funding for the Marinas from the DEEP to battle the Hydrilla growth. Neither the commissioners nor Harbor Master are not familiar with the “Intercostal Region 2” organization and will seek additional information about this organization. The Commission also agreed that management of the Hydrilla issues outside the navigable waterways falls outside our scope.

The Commission determined the date for hosting a Round Table meeting with the Commissioners, Harbor Masters, and the Chester Marinas. Commissioner Chillock will reach out to the Marinas to invite them to the January 4th Round Table meeting.

The Review of the Bulk Head project was removed by DOCKO from the agenda, as new documents will replace their previous submission. This request will be taken back up after DOCKO submits updated documentation.

Commissioner Kane advised she received a request for the Commission’s participation as a work group member of the Connecticut River Project. The core focus of the project is to develop Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) for the Connecticut River. The Connecticut River Project facilitated by Nuka Research and will form multiple workgroups over the next months.

The Commission discussed sponsoring a “Small Craft Inspection” event in May of 2023. Commissioner Kane and Brelsford will work with both Camp Hazen and the USCG to secure a date. The Commission will discuss findings at next meeting.

The Commissioners agreed to the 2023-meeting calendar, which will meet the first Wednesday evening monthly.

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Commissioner Kane announced the retirement of Commissioner Jeb Barrington. The Commissioners extended their gratitude to Commissioner Barrington for his many years of volunteer participation on the Harbor Management Commission and a dedicated advocate for the water health of Chester Creek and pollution control of all Chester waterways. We wish him a fruitful and well-earned retirement. The Commission will seek new alternate member to replace Commissioner Barrington.

8:20pm Commissioner Chillock made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner King.