

**RIVERS AND COASTAL WATERS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

Members Present: Chairman Mark Worthing, Vice Chair Sue Stableford, Bill Good, Steve Walker (Town Council), Fred Wigand and Suzan Wilson (Town Council)

Members Absent: Mark Holbrook (Alternate), Douglas Niven (Alternate), Tammy Gray, Helene Harrower,

Staff Present: MRO, Dan Devereaux

A meeting of the Rivers and Coastal Waters Commission was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at Town Hall, 85 Union Street, Council Chambers. Chair Mark Worthing called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

1) Harbor Ordinance Update (Next Steps, Priorities)

Mark Worthing updated the Commission on the Town Council Public Hearing and stated that the Harbor Ordinance was accepted and will be enacted in the next 30 days. Mark thanked all involved in creating this document.

Dan Devereaux added that this project is impressive and it is good to see the process work. Dan said that they need to look at other types of issues such as winter logs, user fees and prioritize and discuss these issues. Suzan Wilson added that from the Town Council representative side, they are grateful for what the Commission has done, the public for what they have contributed and the Commission leaders and newest members of this Commission. Steve Walker noted that he is impressed with the Commission and what they have already accomplished.

Mark Worthing suggested that they begin to look at the Special Use Permit for the Mere Point Boat Launch for commercial users. Dan Devereaux replied that he can work with the Tom Farrell from Parks and Recreation and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife on the permit and possibly invite representatives to a meeting. Sue Stableford added that one item Tom Farrell had mentioned that needs to be discussed is overnight parking. Mark replied that he believes that Special Use Permit and fees should be looked at and discussed first followed by winter treatment of mooring and further down the road, they need to look at the treatment / option for those who do not own waterfront property. Sue asked for more information on the Harbor fees and how the money is allocated. Suzan Wilson replied that she has spoken with the Town Manager about how funds are allocated and the he is open to discussion as things move forward.

Mark Worthing added that at the last Town Council meeting, a resolution was passed directing the RCWC to look at making sure that those who do not have/own shore front property for boating have access to the water. The Commission is to report back to the

Town Council regarding this in June 2016. Fred Wigand added that there is a desire by the public for ocean swimming and raised the issue of parking.

2) Zoning Ordinance Rewrite

Mark Worthing suggested that a representative from the Planning Department come and explain a little about the Zoning Ordinance, how it is used and what the function serves so that the Commission can adequately provide feedback. Steve Walker provided a brief update on the progress that the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Committee has already accomplished.

3) Aquaculture/Marine Resources

Dan Devereaux pointed out that the local softshell clam population has been plummeting over the past two years linked to the predation of the European Green Crab and coastal acidification. Dan said that he recently visited Barnstable in Cape Cod Massachusetts to see how they are handling similar issues and said that in the late 1990's Barnstable slowly developed a 93 acre aquaculture development zone after much scientific research and public input; in 2014, the reported landing values were \$6 million. Dan said that the Marine Resources Committee is and has been researching how to create an aquaculture zone within Brunswick waters where they will not have any social impact, obscure any view and upset the local residents, but will allow shellfish harvesters to generate income. Dan said that the Marine Resources Committee is still discussing many issues in this regard, but he believes that the RCWC will be an important decision maker in determining where they would put this zone. Dan added that there is legislation being enacted to allow municipalities exclusive rights to those areas. Dan provided Sue Stableford with clarification on ownership and leases locally and through the state. Sue asked about other competing uses. Dan replied that it is a use that will compete with boaters, swimmers and fishermen, but that if they do not step in, this resource will be gone. Dan added that the MRC is working with the Maine Aquaculture Association, Maine Sea Grant, University of Maine, Gulf of Maine Research Institute and harvesters on learning how to start up, maintain and what is involved in aquaculture. Dan to bring area maps to the next meeting per Sue's request. Steve Walker thanked Dan for the impressive amount of work he has done in his research and this adaptive thought to keep fishermen salaries, tradition and bays ongoing. Steve asked if the intertidal lease areas would require zoning changes. Dan replied that Title 1263 list what has to be done and reviewed regulations and that they may need to adapt a more robust ordinance.

4) New Business – No new business.

5) Old Business – No old business

6) Minutes

MOTION BY BILL GOOD TO APPROVED AS AMENDED THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2015. SECONDED BY SUE STABLEFORD. MOTION

**APPROVED BY MARK WORTHING, SUE STABLEFORD AND BILL GOOD;
FRED WIGAND ABSTAINED.**

7) Potential March Agenda Items

- Discuss the fee structure and how the Commission would like to see it work.
- Invite the Recreation Commission to a future meeting to discuss the Special Use Permit, parking, and public swimming areas.
- Suzan Wilson to continue to work with the Town Manager on how the Marine Resource fees are allocated.
- Invite a Planning Department representative to discuss the Zoning Ordinance.
- Dan to bring maps for potential aquiculture areas.

Adjourn

This meeting was adjourned at 7:03 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tonya Jenusaitis
Recording Secretary