

**Rivers and Coastal Waters Commission**  
**Brunswick, Maine**  
**Action Minutes**  
**August 26, 2020**

**Members Present:** Mark Worthing (Chair), Sue Stableford (V-Chair), Helene Harrower (Commercial Rep.), Bill Good (Citizen Rep.), Cory Theberge (Citizen Alt.) William Wilkoff (Parks & Rec. Rep) Marko Melendy (Marine Resources)

**Town Councilors Present:** Kathy Wilson & Steve Walker (Town Council Rep.)

**Staff:** Dan Devereaux (Coastal Resource Manager) Daniel Sylvain (Harbormaster)

A meeting of the Rivers and Coastal Waters Commission was held via electronic device on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Chair Marko Melendy called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**Harbormasters Report:** (00:30- 10:03) Officer Sylvain reported that 2020 boating season has been slightly different from years past. Sylvain indicated that there is a lack of boats on moorings and estimates that 1/3 of the moorings are being used currently. Sylvain contributes this reduction in usage a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sylvain stated that registrations requirements are being met and that he has been checking mooring balls for 2020 registrations. Sylvain indicated that there have been residents that have reached out to apply for moorings however most do not meet the landowner requirement. Sylvain further stated that those who are resident but don't meet waterfront landowner requirements have expressed disappointment in the process. Sylvain suggested that the Commission consider looking into setting aside a coastal area for resident moorings. Melendy suggested that the commission should consider taking a look at this in the future. Melendy asked about the mooring procedures in the Town of Harpswell. Dan Devereaux explained that a public mooring field study was conducted by the town of Brunswick in 2016. At that time it was determined that a public mooring field was not feasible based on the lack publically owned upland infrastructure to support a public mooring field in the limited deeper waters of Brunswick. Devereaux explained the mooring regulations and current conditions in Harpswell. Mark Worthing explained the extensive mooring study looked specifically at coastal areas. Worthing indicated that the only area feasible for the development of a public mooring field was in the waters south of Paul's Marina (Mere Point Bay) and the Mere Point Boat Launch rules and regulations prohibit the facility to be associated with public mooring fields. Worthing suggested that there may be opportunities on the Androscoggin River, but the commission has not looked closely at those options. Councilor Walker indicated that the reason for Mere Point Boat Launch mooring restrictions was set due to concerns from residents that a mooring field would be established in the area. The mooring field study is on the Town's Website. Melendy suggest that it may be something to look at in the future but at this point it has been vetted pretty thoroughly.

**Minutes:** (56:00-56:30) January Meeting Minutes approved unanimously

**AGENDA**

1. **Mare Brook Assessment:** (10:10 – 23:09) Marko Melendy indicated that the assessment of the Mare Brook has continued throughout the summer and has put this on the agenda for any updates. Melendy indicated that the Mare Brook project is overseen by Jared Woolston of the Planning Department. Dan Devereaux stated that the Brook was assessed in June & July by a team of geologist, ecologist, and biologist. The entire brook was surveyed and 5 different barriers to fish passage were noted.

Recommendations, from simple to complex costly improvements were provided to the technical advisory committee. Deveraux explained those recommendations, complications, and future efforts. Deveraux pointed out [Maine Stream habitat viewer](#) which list the barriers of the all the streams in Maine. Walker asked about the US Navy's mitigation plan and that there may be willingness from the Navy to help with the mitigation costs. Deveraux advised that he would check with the Jared Woolston on future Navy involvement. Melendy pointed out the Brunswick Planning Department website hosts an entire page on the Mare Brook Watershed Plan. Melendy suggested that once the assessment is complete that he would like to see some priorities set. Melendy asked if there has been additional water quality testing of the brook and wondered if pollution was making its way upstream from retired Navy Base. Will Wilkoff mentioned that he had witnessed people catching brook trout at the Maine Street Richard Drive intersection. Councilor Walker indicated that there are two different brook trout populations that occupy Mare Brook. Sea run brook trout populate the brook up to a certain point and fresh water upstream. Melendy indicated the commission will continue to follow up on the project as it progresses.

2. **Public Access Sites:** (23:30-42:01) Dan Deveraux reminded the commission that one of the standing priorities of the Rivers and Coastal Waters Commission is work to improve public coastal access. Deveraux explained that the water access points have seen an increase in usage.
  - a. Mere Point Boat Launch. Several weekends over the summer the boat launch parking was at capacity. Vehicles had parked on the entrance road as well as out on Mere Point Rd. Deveraux advised that parking seems to be the biggest issue, as there are many single cars that have been taking up designated truck and trailer parking stalls. Deveraux stated that the State of Maine had purchased a small vacant lot across the street when they were constructing the boat launch. The lot was to be set aside for overflow parking. Deveraux explained that photos and aerial images have been sent to the State of Maine Inland Fish and Wildlife in efforts to show them the congestion on certain days during the summer. He also indicated that there have been discussions about developing additional parking on the vacant lot.
  - b. Simpsons Point: Deveraux stated that foot traffic and usage at this boat launch has increased, especially since the COVID 19 pandemic as it has led to more people seeking local outdoor recreation destinations.
  - c. Barnes Landing: Deveraux stated there were concerns brought up surrounding the road conditions and shoreline erosion. The road was graded in an effort to try to properly drain the parking area. The shoreline erosion had not been repaired, and that Deveraux will work with Tom Farrell to try to properly repair the eroded shoreline. Deveraux stated that this type of work along the shore requires several permits and is a lengthy process.
  - d. Sawyer Park: Deveraux stated Sawyer Park is being used routinely and there haven't been any major problems at this site.
  - e. Princess Point: Deveraux explained the site was completely reconstructed last year with a longer ramp and additional roadside parking. These improvements seem to help accommodate the uptick and usage this summer.
  - f. Water Street Androscoggin River Access: Deveraux stated that the increase in kayakers and hand paddle watercraft has caused several user conflicts at the primary water street boat launch.

Efforts are now being made to study both access points and look at how the uses can be diversified between both access sites.

Officer Sylvain reiterated the need for additional parking at Mere Point Boat Launch and indicated that he was working with the State directly to address those concerns. Sylvain stated all overnight parking requests for June July and August have been denied because of the uptick in usage at the site. Helene Harrower stated that she has gotten repeated calls at Paul's Marina from people looking to park overnight. She indicated that people have been very angry about the no overnight parking policy during peak summer months. Councilor Walker indicated that the Maine Coast Heritage Trust has purchased several islands in this region that are open to public camping leading to increased parking requests, that have to be denied because of lack of adequate parking for overnight users. Devereaux suggested that a letter describing the parking issues be sent to the State of Maine IF&W Commissioners Office. Melendy indicated that he would draft a letter on behalf of the commission to express the concerns with parking.

3. **Water Quality Report:** (42:02-55:06) Officer Sylvain provided a water quality update and explained how the public can access this information through the Maine Department of Marine Resources Website. Sylvain explained that there are a few concerning spots he has noticed degrading water quality. Maquoit Bay near Wharton's Point is showing elevated scores of fecal coliform contamination. Miller Creek in Middle Bay is also an area that has shown an increase in fecal coliform contamination. Devereaux explained that both of those water quality station locations are at the ends of two of Brunswick biggest drainage ravines. Devereaux explained that additional water quality parameters like salinity, chlorophyll, dissolved Oxygen, PH and others are monitored by the Friends of Casco Bay. Commissioners are encouraged to visit the Friends of Casco Bay website to review those results. Devereaux also explained that there have been confirmed algal blooms in the New Meadows River. He stated that town staff is monitoring a fairly significant ulva (sea lettuce) algal bloom at Thomas Point Beach shellfishing area. Devereaux explained that algal blooms are often a result of increased nutrient intrusion and that in years past the town has been able to identify the source nutrients using aerial imagery. Devereaux did explain that there is housing development underway near the Thomas Point algal bloom and staff will look into the sources. Furthermore Devereaux explained that the town recently was awarded a shellfish grant that has allowed the town to monitor similar water quality parameters that are monitored by the Friends of Casco Bay through November 2020. One of the goals of the grant is to convince other state agencies like DMR and DEP, that a more surgical approach to continuous monitoring of individual embayment's will provide better information to local authorities that have capabilities to establish stronger protection. Sue Stableford inquired whether or not the town had published the grant work as it pertains the environmental monitoring. Devereaux advised that a full report will be conducted at the end of the grant and published to the public. Walker suggested that the commission and town consider putting a state of Brunswick Bay's report in the Time Record Newspaper.
4. **Old Business:** (56:35-1:02:50) Devereaux explained that the electronic copy of the most recent Coastal Access Guide will be updated with working hyperlinks. Mark Worthing indicated that he had received correspondence from an active meeting attendee Richard Papetti who has indicated his displeasure of the zoom meeting process. All zoom meetings are televised and the public is encouraged to call in to comment on agenda items. Zoom meeting links are not provided to the public for security reasons. Sue

Stableford also expressed frustration over the call in public meeting process and suggested Papetti be allowed to participate in the zoom meeting as an attendee.

NEXT MEETING (1:02:50- 1:08:40) Devereaux will check the calendar options and send out a poll to the Commission.

Sue Stableford asked Bill Good to provide a distribution update of the Coastal Waters Guide. Bill provided a brief update and indicated that they are being picked up at Hannaford locations. Councilor Wilson stated that she has distributed them in her shop and to her networks and that they are well received by the public.

**Meeting adjourned @ 1:08:47**

Submitted By,

Dan Devereaux,

**Please note: These minutes are action minutes. The entire meeting can be viewed by visiting the Town TV3 website.**

<http://tv3hd.brunswickme.org/CablecastPublicSite/show/4413?channel=1>