

**Borough of Fenwick
Harbor Management Commission
Special Meeting – September 8, 2017**

The Special Meeting of the Borough of Fenwick Harbor Management Commission was held on Friday, September 8, 2017 at 4 Nibang Avenue.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sam Scatterday, Charlie Renshaw, Jonathan Gengras, Chip Gengras (Alternate).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jamie Gay, Wayne Arute, Peter Duncan (Alternate), Chris Jones (Alternate).

OTHERS PRESENT: Marilyn Ozols, Land Use Administrator; Frank Keeney; Bill Webster.

1. Call to Order.

Vice Chairman Scatterday called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. C. Gengras was seated as a voting member and a quorum was established (Scatterday, Renshaw, J. Gengras, C. Gengras).

2. Resident Comment.

At this time the floor was opened for resident comment. No residents spoke.

3. Election of Officers.

C. Gengras moved to nominate the following slate of officers: J. Gay as Chairman of the Harbor Management Commission, S. Scatterday as Vice Chairman, and C. Renshaw as Secretary. C. Renshaw seconded the motion and the slate was approved unanimously.

For: Scatterday, Renshaw, J. Gengras, C. Gengras

Against: None

Abstained: None

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (August 16, 2016).

C. Gengras moved to accept the minutes of the August 16, 2016 meeting as submitted. J. Gengras seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

For: Scatterday, Renshaw, J. Gengras, C. Gengras

Against: None

Abstained: None

5. Harbor Management Plan – Extension of Shoreline Planning Unit.

F. Keeney summarized the discussion to date on the Shoreline Planning Unit as noted the previous minutes. After further discussion members agreed to schedule a meeting on a Saturday in October and invite G. Steadman to attend to answer questions.

6. Hepburn Preserve Dune & Marsh Restoration.

M. Ozols reported that the engineering firm GZA had been retained to explore alternatives and their report is due in December. They have also applied for a grant from CIRCA to cover the cost of design for the selected alternative. This proposal will need to be referred to HMC for a determination of consistency with the Harbor Management Plan.

7. Old Business.

a. Pier / Breakwater.

Breakwater. S. Scatterday referred to the previous minutes which indicated that restoring the breakwater to its original height and shape remains on the capital improvement list, but is not imminent. There are permits in place to do the work and they are valid through April, 2018. Members noted that the breakwater provides less protection than it did originally because the water level has risen, and also that at the time it was built, the purpose was different than it is today. The previous study should be reviewed by the Commission.

Pier. Members noted that the swim area is complete, but from the corner north to the end is still the old pilings and pressure treated lumber, and the face of the pier is a concern. The previous repair estimate for the west side was about \$70,000; there is no estimate for the south side. Members agreed that water intrusion on the south side could impact the integrity of the full pier and repairing this side may be more important than repairing the west side. After further discussion, it was agreed that there should be a study of the south side with an estimate of the cost to repair it and that the south side should take priority over the west side.

C. Gengras moved to request that the Board of Warden and Burgesses add repair of the south side of the pier to the Capital Plan and obtain an estimate to repair it to its original condition. S. Scatterday seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

For: Scatterday, Renshaw, J. Gengras, C. Gengras

Against: None

Abstained: None

F. Keeney noted that the study for the west side is now three years old and the information may need to be updated.

C. Gengras moved to request that the Board of Warden and Burgesses revisit the pier condition on the west side in addition to the south side. S. Scatterday seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

For: Scatterday, Renshaw, J. Gengras, C. Gengras

Against: None

Abstained: None

b. Sequassen Avenue Dune Restoration.

B. Webster stated that GZA has looked at the Sequassen area and submitted a proposal but it has not been forwarded to the Burgesses yet; both the Sequassen and Hepburn dunes protect the marsh and there is a cost savings to looking at them both at once; the cost for GZA to look at refurbishing/replenishing and hardening the dune plus raising the road from Crab Creek Bridge to the private drive is about \$30,000 to \$40,000; the Road Committee is also looking at the road area; he has pretty much secured private funding for the initial report.

F. Keeney noted that the Borough and LPLT are sharing the cost of the study of the Hepburn Dune and B. Webster believes he has funding for a report on the Sequassen Dune, but the execution of the work will be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. S. Scatterday noted that raising the portion of Sequassen up to Crab Creek has been very effective and raising the remainder in a similar manner to protect it from normal flooding would be good for the Borough.

F. Keeney reminded the Commission that even with private contributions to FIF to pay for the cost of the report, it would have to be authorized by the Board of Warden and Burgesses. He added that the Commission may be the appropriate entity to take the lead in the project. S. Scatterday added that the liaison can carry forth the recommendation but the Commission should indicate its support in a vote.

C. Gengras moved that the Harbor Commission supports the continued study of the Sequassen dune restoration and roadway elevation in order to protect the shoreline and roads of the Borough. J. Gengras seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

For: Scatterday, Renshaw, J. Gengras, C. Gengras
Against: None
Abstained: None

8. Harbor Master Report.

No report.

9. Other Business.

South Cove. S. Scatterday expressed concern that the water depth was getting low in South Cove and it may not accommodate moorings in the near future. Members noted that this was discussed in the past and the expense for dredging is enormous; the cost of dumping the material in and of itself is huge.

Bird Population. F. Keeney noted that the bird population is adding to the filling in of the Cove. The swans are not only eating the eelgrass, which serves as a filter, they are pulling it up from the roots and eliminating it. C. Renshaw stated that he believed there was a program about twenty years ago to control the swans and offered to check with the Town of Old Saybrook to see if there is a current plan to address them.

10. Adjournment.

J. Gengras moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:18 p.m. C. Gengras seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. (Scatterday, Renshaw, J. Gengras, C. Gengras)

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn M. Ozols
Acting Recording Secretary