

**Borough of Fenwick
Harbor Management Commission
Special Meeting – July 15, 2019**

The Special Meeting of the Borough of Fenwick Harbor Management Commission was held on Monday, July 15, 2019 at 4 Nibang Avenue.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jamie Gay, Jonathan Gengras, Charles Renshaw, Wayne Arute.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sam Scatterday, Peter Duncan (Alternate), Chris Jones (Alternate), Chip Gengras (Alternate), William Christensen, Harbormaster, ex officio.

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

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. A quorum was established (Gay, J. Gengras, Renshaw, Arute).

2. Election of Officers.

J. Gengras moved to nominate C. Renshaw as Chairman of the Harbor Management Commission.

W. Arute seconded the motion it was approved 3-0-1.

For: Gay, J. Gengras, Arute

Against: None

Abstained: Renshaw

W. Arute moved to nominate S. Scatterday as Vice Chairman and J. Gengras as Secretary of the Harbor Management Commission. C. Renshaw seconded the motion it was approved unanimously.

For: Gay, J. Gengras, Renshaw, Arute

Against: None

Abstained: None

3. Resident Comment.

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

4. Harbor Management Plan / Extension of Shoreline Planning Unit. Proposal from Geoff Steadman, Coastal Management Consultant.

As requested at the last meeting, G. Steadman had submitted a proposal to prepare an amendment to the Harbor Management Plan to establish additional shoreline planning units for a lump sum of \$3,000 plus costs. M. Ozols stated that the approved FY19-20 budget includes \$2,000 for a consultant plus \$50 for miscellaneous costs. If the Commission wants to proceed, they will need to request an additional \$1,000 plus a sum for costs from the Board of Warden and Burgesses.

C. Renshaw read from the motion at the previous meeting where the Commission voted to request that G. Steadman review the proposed planning unit areas

- Fenwick Proper Shore to the breakwater
- the outer light to the inner light
- the former Brainard property to the causeway
- Fenwick Proper Shore west to the Borough boundary

and prepare a budget which will be submitted to the Burgesses for consideration and funding.

J. Gengras asked about the reasons for the additional planning units. Members stated that it was partly for aesthetics since it was conceivable that every property not in the current planning unit might eventually have a dock or pier, and partly because these structures can impact sand accretion and erosion.

J. Gengras stated that he would be concerned about unnecessarily limiting what can be done at the Yacht Club in the future. Members noted that they have identified four separate areas and once the reasons for each area are identified, they can evaluate each of them separately. J. Gay added that the planning units are similar to zoning but for the water rather than the land.

J. Gengras recommended requesting \$1,500 in order for G. Steadman to propose how each of the four areas should be regulated. The Harbor Management Commission can then review this information and decide what to recommend to the Burgesses for action.

W. Arute moved to request an additional \$1,000 plus \$500 for costs from the Board of Warden and Burgesses in order to move forward with amending the Harbor Management Plan to include additional planning units. C. Renshaw seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

For: Gay, J. Gengras, Renshaw, Arute

Against: None

Abstained: None

5. Update - Hepburn Preserve & Sequassen Avenue Resiliency Planning.

M. Ozols reported that emergency repairs had been performed in the late spring in order to reopen the flow to the pond. The work included temporary placement of a pipe and reconstruction of portions of the dune with anchored logs to discourage erosion. The work was performed by the DEEP Wetland Habitat and Mosquito Management unit (WHAMM) at no expense to the Borough or Land Trust. No DEEP permit was needed but the Borough did prepare and submit an application to the Army Corps in order to obtain their approval for the work.

Currently GZA is preparing an application to both DEEP and the Army Corps to divert Crab Creek and relocate the culvert farther north, and to construct a living shoreline that will include a higher, vegetated dune and rock sills in the water (plan displayed). The sills will extend about .2 feet above mean high water and will help with marsh accretion but will not hamper marine activity. There is a stakeholder meeting on July 23 to get both DEEP and Army Corps input prior to submission of applications. It is anticipated that the work will take place next winter with final planting in the spring. The plan will also need to be reviewed by P&Z and the Harbor Management Commission. The Connecticut River Conservancy is taking the lead on obtaining grants to cover the cost of construction.

There was a question about whether moving the creek farther north will affect the abutting property. GZA has done extensive engineering and modelling to determine the correct location and creek configuration. With water flowing better to the pond and less opportunity for a breach to block the creek, the marsh should actually flood less, so there should be less impact on adjacent property than if the creek remains in its current location.

6. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (August 18, 2018).

J. Gengras moved to accept the minutes of the August 18, 2018 meeting as adjusted. J. Gay seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

For: Gay, J. Gengras, Renshaw, Arute

Against: None

Abstained: None

7. Harbor Master Report.

W. Christensen submitted a written report indicating that:

- There are more boats than ever on moorings - demand is up. Cooperation around the dock and pier have been good and for the most part everyone is pleased. Moorings are registered and inspected. Frank Sciami moved his dingy mooring from the river to the outside (LIS) where traffic is 1/100th of that in the river for safety reasons. So far this season we have not lost a boat, had an injury, nor a major complaint.
- He learned about SHIPP grants at end of May and thought that the Borough should come up with a plan to request 2 things: Dredge 1.5 feet of channel into the cove, which would be about 3' at mean low water and also repair the rock jetty that protects the beach from big storms to its original state. He estimated that this would require a 10' extension to either end and about 1.5 foot increase in height. He stated that neither is an overwhelming situation and they would employ Geoff Steadman if needed to 'shepherd' the application through the process.

Members reviewed information on the SHIPP grants and discussed the breakwater and pier. The deadline for SHIPP has passed for this year but staff will be notified if it opens up again. The funding is likely not sufficient to cover larger projects and a local match is required. Repair of the breakwater has permits from DEEP and Army Corps but nothing has been done to date because of the expense. The pier will also need significant work very soon to address interior erosion. HMC has recommended both pier and breakwater work in the past, but the breakwater may not currently be on the capital improvement list. J. Gengras will address this with the Burgesses.

8. Other Business.

J. Gay stated that a member of the public had asked about being requested to discontinue keeping a boat on a "clothesline" at the Yacht Club. Members stated that the question should be addressed to the Yacht Club but they believed the issue was that the line went from the dock to the shore, which inhibited access to the dock. Members also noted that there may be a need for some type of clothesline system for dinghies similar to what is in North Cove.

9. Adjournment.

J. Gengras moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m. W. Arute seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. (Gay, J. Gengras, Renshaw, Arute)

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn M. Ozols
Acting Recording Secretary