

**Borough of Fenwick
Harbor Management Commission
Special Meeting – May 16, 2020**

The Special Meeting of the Borough of Fenwick Harbor Management Commission was held on Saturday, May 16, 2020 via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Renshaw, Jamie Gay, Jonathan Gengras, Sam Scatterday,

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Geoff Steadman, consultant, Marilyn Ozols, Land Use Administrator.

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. A quorum was established (Renshaw, Gay, J. Gengras, Scatterday).

2. Election of Officers.

M. Ozols stated that this was on the agenda in error, since we're in the same fiscal year as the last meeting.

3. Resident Comment.

No residents were present.

4. Harbor Management Plan / Extension of Shoreline Planning Unit. Initiation of Draft with Geoff Steadman, Coastal Management Consultant.

G. Steadman stated that the Harbor Management Plan was adopted in 2004; an addendum in 2010 identified a Shoreline Planning Unit between Fenwick Pier on the east and the wetland on the west and established a policy to be followed by DEEP in reviewing applications. He added that the purpose for this Shoreline Planning Unit was to preserve the natural shoreline by preventing construction of any permanent structures and that the language in the Addendum also indicated that other Shoreline Planning Units could be identified in the future. He also noted that there has been a change DEEP's approach in that the recommendation in the Harbor Management Plan is no longer binding on DEEP, but rather the Harbor Management Commission can make a case by case recommendation based on the Plan, and that language detailing this should be incorporated into the new Addendum.

G. Steadman stated that it had been his intent to walk the shoreline at this meeting in order to discuss the various areas to be considered for new Shoreline Planning Units. Members stated that these areas had already been determined and they could discuss them while referencing their locations on a map. The previously determined areas are:

- 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

G. Steadman will delineate these areas on a map; Commission members will walk them individually once the map is received; and the Commission will meet again in the near future to discuss them. It was recalled that the separate areas were identified in order to allow various criteria for each and then their separate evaluation.

J. Gay asked how difficult it would be to change a Shoreline Planning Unit in the future if circumstances changed. G. Steadman stated that this would require an amendment to the Plan and amendments will be enabled when the Units are adopted.

5. Updates –

a. Hepburn Family Preserve.

M. Ozols stated that the DEEP has approved the proposal; the Army Corps comment period has ended so the permit should be forthcoming; P&Z will hear the application this summer; bidding will occur over the summer; and work should begin in the fall

b. Fenwick Avenue Pier.

M. Ozols stated that Army Corps has approved the repairs and the permit should be forthcoming from DEEP. Because of delays in the engineering and covid-19 related issues, temporary patches have been made and the work will take place in the fall.

6. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (July 15, 2019).

S. Scatterday moved to accept the minutes of the July 15, 2019 meeting as presented. J. Gay seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

For: Renshaw, Gay, J. Gengras, Scatterday

Against: None

Abstained: None

7. Harbor Master Report.

No report.

8. Other Business.

S. Scatterday asked for an update on grant availability for dredging. G. Steadman stated that the previous discussion was about applying for a SHIPP grant for small harbors from the CT Port Authority. No application was made and the Port Authority currently does not have permission to seek grant funds. At the Port Authority's last meeting, they accepted ten applications that had previously been submitted, but it is unclear whether there will be any funds in the future.

C. Renshaw encouraged members to individually walk the shoreline after the map of potential Shoreline Planning Units is received.

9. Adjournment.

S. Scatterday moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 a.m. J. Gengras seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. (Renshaw, Gay, J. Gengras, Scatterday)

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn M. Ozols
Acting Recording Secretary