

Narraganset Harbor Management Commission
Meeting Minutes
Aug 12, 2020 (via ZOOM)

I. Call to order

@ 7:10 pm. by Chairman Harvey Cataldo

11. Roll Call

Harvey Cataldo, Bryan Couture, Ray Morrocco, John Jennings, John Thompson, Kevin Connors & Jill Sabo, Jeff Berry, Benjamin Goetsch(CRMC), Diane Franford (Jonathan Island Oyster Company)

111. Approval of Consent Agenda

March 3, 2020 and May 5, 2020 Minutes revising the minutes to reflect the action as “receive and place on file” for items 5R, 6R and 7R, Harbormaster Report and Correspondence.

Motion to approve by J. Thompson/ B. Couture. Approved: 5-0

IV. Open Forum

- a) N/A

V. New Business

- a) CRMC file # 2014-04-106 Jonathan Island Oyster Company – Site modification. Harvey Cataldo recused.
 - (1) Applicant stated that she currently possesses an aquaculture lease to the west side of Jonathan Island. Applicant would like to change their existing aquaculture lease to a full Colum/floating cage system from a bottom and rack/bag system.
 - (2) Applicant and Benjamin Goetsch detailed the change that is proposed. It was stated that the applicant would like to float all of its gear on top of the water to increase growth rate of the Oysters. The farm would not increase in size and it would be acceptable if part of the lease was allowed to float gear. Also, the applicant would place lighted buoys on all four corners of the lease to aid boats to navigate safely around the farm at night.
 - (3) Several issues were presented by the Commission and the Harbor Master. The Harbor Master was very concerned about boater navigational safety if cages were surface floated on the lease. He stated that just to the west of the lease is a high-speed unmarked channel that is heavily used by boaters. The location of

the high-speed channel forces kayakers and paddle boarders over the lease to avoid boat traffic. If cages are there, no safe passage would be possible. He is also concerned that boaters could possibly hit the cages. He stated that he is “100%” in opposition to this change, regardless if they modified the application to relocate the location of the floating gear. He strongly recommended that this modification be denied.

- (4) The commission members also had the same issues with the lease modification as well as general question about the maintenance of the lighted buoys. It was stated by Benjamin that the lighted buoys would be the responsibility of the applicant. The commission members also recommended that the lease modification be denied.
- (5) A motion for the Harbor Master and the Harbor Commission to send a letter to CRMC to deny Assent Modification for B2014-04-1063 J. Thompson/B. Couture 4-0

VI. Old Business

- a) N/A

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: B Couture / J. Thompson Approved: 4-0 @ 8:15 pm.

** Harbormaster verbal report

1. Boat traffic on the pond is at a all-time high.
2. Violations for the summer are up as compared to previous years.
3. Mooring requests have been coming in at a steady rate. To date he has received over 160 requests.
4. The July 4 private firework display had several problems. He stated that it is getting extremely difficult to allow this display to operate safely with the number of spectators and boats on the pond.