

# Narragansett Harbor Mgmt Commission (NHMC) - 2024-Apr-02 corrected May-07

## Convene / Roll Call

- **Call To Order @ 19:00h** by Chair Bryan Couture, Site: Narragansett Town Hall, Conference Room
- **Roll Call**, Members: Bryan Couture, Ray Morrocco, John Thompson, R. Rick Black, Don Vivenzio, John Hughes, Jeff Berry, Steve Marasco (alternate with full voting powers)  
Liaison Staff: Jill Sabo
- **Exhibits Provided:**
  - Agenda for this meeting
  - Narragansett Harbor Management Commission (NHMC) preliminary meeting minutes of 2024-Mar-05 as recorded by Secretary
  - RI General Assembly bills – H7892, S2629 pertaining to municipal regulation of houseboats

## Agenda

- **Item A, Approval of minutes:** Corrections to 2024-Mar-05 minutes proposed and agreed by consensus of commission. Acceptance moved by Rick Black, seconded by John Hughes. Motion passed 8-0.
- **Item B, Administrative:** Chair Bryan Couture indicates his intent not to request reappointment on this commission beyond expiration of current term at end of 2024-Jun-30.
- **Item C1, Old Business; Pt Judith Pond closures/Water Quality Update:**
  - Water Quality subcommittee has results of tests conducted at Champlin Cove sites. These will be presented at future NHMC meetings. Flow off land deemed surface origin (not ground water) and noted significant E-coli content. Summary report from subcommittee is in progress. A meeting of subcommittee with Town Manager is planned for later in April upon completion of draft report.
  - Results of Pt Judith Pond sites as collected and analyzed by Coastal Pond Watchers (in summer 2023) have been published and are available through Pond Watchers website. Summary of results to better focus on Pt. Judith Pond is being undertaken by Rick Black for distribution and future consideration by NHMC.
- **Item C2, Old Business; Harbor Management Plan:**
  - Draft edit of plan has been submitted to Police Chief Corrigan and Fire Chief Partington for comment. Chief Corrigan responded with no objections. Chief Partington yet to respond.
  - Next step calls for submittal to CRMC (Kevin Cute) for feedback.
  - Following necessary revision thereby derived, forward to Town Council and public comment.
- **Item D, New business; RI bill, Municipal regulation of houseboats:**
  - RI General Assembly bills H7892, S2629 under discussion, giving cities and towns liberty (but not the requirement) to regulate houseboats in their waters. Newport and North Kingstown are seen as leading advocacy for this bill.
  - In the case of Narragansett's Point Judith Pond, houseboats are generally prohibited due to its qualification as a "coastal pond". Note this doesn't apply to Narrow/Pettaquamscut River.
  - Discussion ensued pertaining to parsing bill language, potential interpretation issues, and enforcement implications.
- **Correspondence:**
  - Jill informs us Oliver Dixon (applicant for aquaculture permit per CRMC Public Notice File 2014-07-067 heard before this body last Feb-06 and Feb-15) has re-applied to CRMC with modified plans. This notice was provided too late for NHMC to include on our agenda. Application passed around for eventual review at this time with changes evident from prior application.

Current deadline for comment (potentially from NHMC and others) for consideration by CRMC is Apr-29. Consensus of NHMC was to ask CRMC examiner (Ben Goetch) to delay action so that NHMC might take up in next scheduled meeting (May-07) with opportunity to provide comment for CRMC consideration. Jill to contact CRMC with this request.

- **Items for next agenda:**

- Pt Judith Pond closures / Water Quality:
  - Examination of report from NHMC subcommittee reviewing Champlin Cove and outflow from Sunset Farm.
  - Results of tests in Pt Judith Pond as conducted in 2023 by Coastal Pond Watchers, and funded in part by Town of Narragansett.
- Harbor Management Plan: reviewing feedback as provided, preparation for Town Council and public comment on plan.
- Dixon aquaculture modification proposal, pending willingness of CRMC to delay consideration.
- Houseboat regulations

- **Adjournment:** Motion by Rick Black, seconded by Ray Morocco. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 20:08h.

Respectfully submitted, *Jeff Berry*, NHMC Secretary