

SOUTH KINGSTOWN
WATERFRONT ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Commissioner Smith at 7:08 p.m. at The Neighborhood Guild

MEMBERS PRESENT: L. Murphy, G. Windhurst, R. Smith, J. Bedell

MEMBERS ABSENT: B. Laramée, M. Sherry, T. O'Neil

STAFF PRESENT: T. Murphy, M. Stach

STAFF ABSENT:

GUESTS: Perry Raso, Residents of Matunuck Village

MEETING MINUTES: Motion to approve December 7, 2017 meeting minutes by J. Bedell, seconded by L. Murphy. Motion passed 4-0.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Commissioner Smith read names of residents who submitted correspondence to be placed on the record. (list attached)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Perry Raso 2236 Comm. Oliver Perry Hazard Highway

Mr. Raso is the applicant for File #2017-12-086. He indicated that he chose the Segar Cove site specifically because his observations were that there is limited activity in the cove. He understands that there is water skiing and tubing which is why the location of the site – and that it is tucked into the side of the cove, keeps it away from the activity. This is his 4th application and first to pass CRMC's preliminary determination process. He understands the objections and concerns; and will be cognizant of aesthetics; operating hours will be reduced to not interfere with bird activity. Potter Pond is currently at 2.1% of the allowable 5% aquaculture per CRMC. Benefits of aquaculture include increased biodiversity, filtration of waters. Question by Commissioner Smith – how will scallops be able to survive in this area? Response: The water column is suitable for this activity.

The following individuals spoke in opposition to the proposed aquaculture site related to CRMC File #2017-12-086

Bill Irons 150 Prospect Road

Lives on coves; great respect for Perry; however, May to September there is constant activity on the pond and locating an aquaculture farm will disrupt this activity.

Carol Cimilluca 2464C Commodore Perry Highway

Read letter submitted to CRMC that opposes the proposed aquaculture application for Segar Cove

Michael Mainelli 142 Prospect Road

Proposed aquaculture lease will negatively impact recreational activity in the cove. Power boaters currently stay on the perimeter of the cove; while kayaks and paddle boarders use the middle of the cove. The location of the proposed aquaculture operation will force power boats to move further to the center of the cove; and reduce the overall area available for various activities to take place at the same time.

Harold Applebee 64 Segar Court

“Representing Kevin Hart,” abutter to the proposed site. This will affect property values and is unfair to de-value property.

Joyce Corl 210 Washington St.

Washington Street provides public access to Segar Cove. It is not just those who live on the Cove, who will be negatively impacted by the proposed aquaculture. The entire area enjoys the cove, including tourists who rent in Matunuck.

Debra McCurdy 264 Prospect Rd.

Lives year-round on the Cove. Families “play on the pond”. The entire area enjoys it. It will be a safety issue for those who use the pond recreationally.

Carl Wadenstein 400 Sycamore Lane

Second generation family that enjoys the water. In opposition to aquaculture as proposed – based on concerns about protection and safety of citizens who use it recreationally for water skiing, tubing, paddle boarding.

Tom O’Brien 255 Prospect Rd.

Have family with canoes and kayaks who use the cove regularly. Tremendous recreational resource. Opposed to aquaculture in Segar Cove as it will negatively impact recreational use.

Jim O’Neill

Concern that proposed location for aquaculture will affect residential property values. There should be separation of commercial and residential uses. Council should consider an ordinance to address this.

Cynthia Larned 11 Ocean Ave.

Represent people on Matunuck Point and is opposed to the application. The proposed site would not have a neutral impact on people who use the pond.

Jane Enos 267 Prospect Rd.

Voiced concern about debris from the farm, impact on the local bird life including two active osprey nests, and fly fishing.

Mr. Raso addressed the Commission to address some of the concerns raised, noting that he had applied three times previous to this for different locations. This was the first location that CRMC would consider.

Believes it would benefit the pond.

Commissioner Bedell asked about the work schedule. Mr. Raso responded that there would be no weekend work, schedule would generally be Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:30/5pm. Limited hours would be set to address the concerns about bird life in the area.

Follow up public comment:

What happens if children or boaters gets caught in the gear? If a power boat were to go over the farm – it would bad for the gear and the boat.

What about heavy wake from boats – what impact will that have on gear? Mr. Raso responded that the gear could handle wave action from boats. Has already looked at revising the area to move the corners of the proposed area to better accommodate boaters, water skiers.

Concern raised about vacationers not familiar with the cove related to safety.

Questions regarding how people will be able to access equipment that may end up in the farm area; and have other locations been considered? Mr. Raso responded that other areas were considered but did not meet with CRMC approval.

Question re: who ensures that aquaculture operations are in compliance? Mr. Raso responded that CRMC does annual inspections and DEM inspects a few times a year.

Question – are there any other applications like this one? Mr. Raso responded – not that he is aware of.

Question – what about the physical route – how will boats access the farm? Where will the oysters/scallops

go from there? Mr. Raso responded that oysters/scallops will be sorted on a boat or platform (not in the cove); some will be delivered to the restaurant; others to delivery vehicles that would load at the restaurant. Question re: plastic PVC pipe and plastic bags that end up as debris on the shoreline; and loud music that is sometimes heard from workers. P. Raso responded that both would be addressed. He provided his cell phone number to contact him directly in the event of loud music.

Question: At what point was permission granted for floating gear? P. Raso responded that it was a few years ago when mud crabs became a problem.

Question: How much additional space outside the boundaries of the farming area is required for work boats? P. Raso responded that most of the boat activity would be inside the parameters of the proposed site.

Question: Does CRMC make suggestions to applicants on their proposal?

Question regarding access. People can access aquaculture sites, they just cannot harvest. It was noted that the proposed site is in six feet of water – not an area that would be wade-able.

Harbor Master noted that 3 acres of usable water obviously constricts the area however, there are no safety concerns or issues related to the boats and waterways ordinance.

Power washing and associated debris was raised as a concern.

OLD BUSINESS

A. CRMC Aquaculture Preliminary Determination – P. Raso – Proposed Expansion Leisure

This item is related to New Business Item A. It was reported that the Preliminary Determination process was completed by CRMC and a report issued to the applicant.

NEW BUSINESS

A. CRMC Public Notice – File #2017-12-086 – P. Raso

The Commission heard public comment from all who wished to speak on this matter; and followed up with question and answers directed to the applicant – P. Raso. Detail of this is included in public comment section of these minutes.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion that the Waterfront Advisory Commission respond to CRMC Public Notice 2017-12-086 noting its opposition to the proposed aquaculture farm in Segar Cove as it would have a negative impact on recreational activity in the area.

Discussion continued with Commissioner Bedell indicating that he would like to wait to make an informed decision; Commissioner Windhurst agreed that there was an abundance of information to consider after significant public comment.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bedell to table the item and request an extension of the public comment period deadline from CRMC to allow the Waterfront Advisory Commission to provide comment after further review of concerns and information brought forth during the meeting; as well as discovery of any further information that may be relevant to this issue. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Windhurst. Motion passed 4-0.

B. Harbor Management Plan Update

It was reported that the Harbor Management Plan update will be delayed until the Town Comprehensive Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plans are updated. CRMC granted an extension of the plan update deadline.

C. Marina Park Rental – Renewal - South Kingstown Farmers Market

South Kingstown Farmers Market submitted a renewal request for renting field space at Marina Park to operate an outdoor farmers market from May to October. Motion to approve the request was made by Commissioner Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Windhurst. Motion passed 4-0.

HARBORMASTER REPORT

M. Stach reported there were no new items to discuss at this time.

NEXT MEETING: The next Waterfront Advisory Commission meeting will take place on Thursday, March 1st, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Neighborhood Guild.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Bedell and seconded by Commissioner Murphy at 9:42 p.m. Motion passed 4-0.

**South Kingstown Waterfront Advisory Commission
February 1, 2018**

Correspondence

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298 Prospect Rd.

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Dorothy Woodcock
2464D Commodore Perry Highway

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