

April 20, 2015

The Waterfront Commission held a special meeting on this date at the Town Dock meeting room, Stonington, CT. Members present were Sandy Grimes, Chairman; Mike Grimshaw; Bill Bomster and Randy Minor.
Also present, Town residents.

Chairman Grimes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Report – Mr. Bomster made a motion to accept the Treasurers report as read. The balance in the WFC account is \$625.00. Mr. Grimshaw seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Previous minutes

Mr. Grimshaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting as presented. Mr. Bomster seconded the motion and voting was unanimous.

Mr. Grimes revised the order of the agenda.

New Business

Blessing of the Fleet –

Mike Crowley was present. He stated that the Blessing would be held on July 26, 2015 at the park at the Town Dock. There will be a tent this year. Mr. Minor asked if all insurances were obtained. Mr. Crowley said yes and any overflow parking would be at St. Mary's Church. Mr. Crowley added that there would be a 5K-road race July 23, 2015 from 4 to 6 pm. He added that all permits have been obtained. Mr. Minor made a motion to approve both events scheduled for July 23 and July 26, 2015. Mr. Bomster seconded.

Old Business

Dock Area housekeeping/maintenance –

All is well. Finishing touches are being done at Seawell Seafood.

Mr. Grimes stated that the Town is still waiting on FEMA reimbursement from Super storm Sandy.

Donahue Park – Members discussed the status of the Park and agreed all is well.

Open Space Area rules -

At the March 2015 meeting, the First Selectman had attended the meeting and notified the members that CIRMA had completed a risk management study at the Open Space area, recommending a fence along the rock seawall. He had suggested a committee to discuss rules, plans and uses of the Open Space area comprised of both Town and Borough staff.

Mr. Grimes stated that he had been notified by the First Selectman that the Department of Environmental Protection had determined that access must be available to all residents and the fence recommended by CIRMA was not permitted.

Mr. Grimes stated that he had a meeting set for Tuesday, April 21, 2015 with the DEP at the Town Hall to discuss further.

The First Selectman had asked that Rule #1 be to keep dogs off the neighboring properties.

Residents are not allowed to place No Trespassing signs in the open areas.

Putting dogs on a leash is important to all present but it was stated that the Chief of Police is against the leash law. Dogs roaming freely are an issue as well.

Mr. Grimes asked for Public Comments to help with rules for the Open Space area.

- Wendy Bradford no roaming dogs
- Jackie Poisson - need stairs to water for safety
- Attorney Mike Bonnano stated that he had been informed that the meeting with the DEP scheduled for tomorrow had been cancelled. He added that the First Selectman had told him that a committee would include Town and Borough residents and adjacent property owners. He added that miscommunication seems to be a disservice to all parties. He asked how there could be a dog park without the proper permits and permissions. He stated that there is a survey showing that the property owner has beach ownership.

A discussion ensued regarding site plan approval, Mean high water line definitions, southerly spot markation.

- Jon Tobiassen suggested getting dog park rules from the internet. People who use the area now are very responsible.

At this time Mr. Grimshaw stated that the Commission had asked for assistance with establishing rules not discussing the issue of a dog park versus Open space. He added that he would like parking rules for safety of people and their pets and to pick up waste and dispose of properly.

Mr. Grimes asked Mr. Bonnano what his clients want. Mr. Bonnano replied, that the Town go through the process to adopt rules of a dog park and take it from there.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Bomster made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Grimshaw seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Ethan Grimes

Vice Chair/Treasurer