



# COASTAL WATERS COMMISSION

MINUTES  
Wednesday, April 10, 2024  
6:00 PM  
East Conference Room

Committee Members:  
Richard Thompson, Chairman  
Mike Schwindt, Vice Chairman  
David Carlson  
Hugh Judge  
Ivy Frignoca  
Robert Johnson  
George Turner  
David Witherill

Town Staff:  
Mark Segrist  
Robert Vail  
Charles Rumsey  
Kailey Hanley

**Present:** Chairman Richard Thompson, Mike Schwindt, Hugh Judge, George Turner, Robert Johnson  
**Excused:** David Carlson, David Witherill and Ivy Frignoca  
**Town Staff:** Charles Rumsey, Chief of Police; Matthew Merriman, Harbormaster; Kailey Hanley, Recording Secretary

**Guests:** LPA Applicant – Steve Hebson

## I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Richard Thompson at 6:00 p.m.

## II. Public hearing for 4 adjacent LPA sites to the south of Sturdivant Island

Rick Thompson introduced Steve Hebson, the applicant for the four LPAs and asked him to describe the locations and what the intentions of the applications are.

Steve explained that the 4 LPAs are over the Falmouth/Cumberland line just north of Sturdivant ledge towards Sturdivant Island, which makes for a great location being about 1,000 FT to the nearest property owner, as well as not being too deep or too shallow. The LPAs are for oysters, and his son is listed as a helper, and they both attended a weeklong class for standard operation oyster farming last June. He explained that the maximum they could fit were about 72 traps per LPA which will be floating and will be sourcing seeds from Mook Sea Farms.

Harbormaster Matt Merriman says that they have been discussing this for the past four months trying to decide on a location, and that this is the best location they could be in as far as boat traffic goes.

At this time there is no action required of the commission, however the town of Cumberland does require a public hearing on LPAs and the Harbormaster approved and signed off on all 4 applications.

## III. Approve the February 6, 2024, Minutes

**Motion:** To approve the February 6, 2024, Minutes.

**Moved by:** Robert Johnson

**Seconded by:** Hugh Judge

**Vote:** Unanimous

## IV. Old Business

None.

## V. New Business

## **1. Update on the mooring renewals:**

Rick asked about an update on the mooring renewals, Harbormaster Matt Merriman said that we had 8 from the Broad Cove reserve mooring field, who didn't renew, and he is working on reassigning those and waiting to hear back from 5 of those, and a good amount of riparian that have not renewed yet but is hopeful that they will soon.

Rob Johnson asked how long the waitlist was, Matt said that it was currently at 38. He also said that there were currently 19 dinghy application that have been approved out of the 40 allowed. Matt also brought up that there are new features in the online mooring app to track if people are using their mooring, by adding vessels when he goes out for inspections to track which moorings never have boats on them for years.

## **2. Response to BCR survey:**

Chief Rumsey read off the responses to the BCR survey, which included questions:

"What type of boat do you own"

"Did you put a boat on your mooring last year"

"Do you plan to put a boat on your mooring in 2024"

We got 14 responses out of 48, 10 people said yes that they did put a boat on their mooring last year, and others said only a few months, the weather conditions were not in their favor, or boat repairs. 12 out of 14 people said yes that they plan to put a boat on their mooring in 2024. Some people suggested putting more reflectors or lights on the kayak rack or channel buoys as well as the pier, which Matt said that he will check, and reflectors wouldn't be hard to do.

Rick asked for an update on the float expansion, and Chief Rumsey said that it's a waiting game at this point, all the requests and grant applications have been submitted, and we're possibly looking at 2025 for any movement on the project.

Chief brought up special accommodations section on the kayak application, and how it should be reworded to clarify what qualifies as a special accommodation, and how many spaces should be set aside for these accommodations. He asked the commission if they think that it is reasonable to talk to the attorneys and Town Manager to rework the ordinance language to clarify this and they agreed. Harbormaster Matt Merriman will also reach out to other Towns to see if they have anything in place that covers this and how they are handling it.

Mike Schwindt asked how many people have applied for kayak space this year in which Chief Rumsey confirmed with Town Clerk Jennifer Dotan that about 112 have applied so far this year. Hugh Judge asked if we can put more racks up top, and Mike said that it may interfere with the land trust, but Chief Rumsey will check on that.

## **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Kailey Hanley, Recording Secretary