



CITY OF GLOUCESTER
FISHERIES COMMISSION MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014; 7:00 PM
THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
CITY HALL
9 DALE AVENUE

Members:

Mark Ring, Chair	Joseph Orlando
Al Cottone, Vice Chair	BG Brown [absent]
Sefatia Theken, City Council	Angela Sanfilippo
Greg Verga, City Council [absent]	Scott Swicker
Paul Vitale [absent]	

Also in attendance: Sarah Garcia; Ed Kaznocha; Paul Lundberg, city council; Lise Breen, Jack Wiggin, Damon Cummings, Patti Page, Valerie Nelson, Suzanne Altenberger

Mark Ring called the meeting to order at 7:04

Angela Sanfilippo made the motion to approve the minutes from January 16th, seconded by **Scott Swicker**. All in favor.

Mark Ring makes note that city counselor Paul Lundberg is present.

Jack Wiggin talks about the Gloucester dockage. It started as a dockage study that reported fishing vessels docking there, and the report goes through a brief summary of the different surveys that were done. The data gaps were filled in and has all been collected and compiled into spreadsheets that were given to the city. The value is how this will best structure where fishing vessels go to and what places they are housed in going forward.

Sarah Garcia adds that in the Harbor Plan it's stated that no one can displace commercial dockage without providing an offset somewhere else.

Jack Wiggin elaborates that 38% of the commercial dockage is publicly owned and protected and that if the proposed areas come out of the DPA they'll still be considered commercial dockage.

Joe Orlando questions if the 7\$ per foot on page 6 includes electricity and water.

Jack Wiggin answers that no, it does not include either of those charges.

Sarah Garcia questions if marinas include those in their numbers or not as well.

Jack Wiggin says the commercial facilities linear foot charts do not, he'll find out about the rest. The idea was to get some sense if there's sufficient dockage to support future fishing industry. Questions how the non-DPA parts should be managed.

Sarah Garcia says that the DPA master plan says commercial dockage can't be displaced unless it's replaced elsewhere. The parts non-DPA are then under chapter 91, as soon as the use is changed a new license is required. If that's what happens there'll be a few drafts of options.

Sefatia Theken asks if the 49 vessels are in jeopardy at the Monday hearing.

Sarah Garcia answers that unless zoning is changed than all the water properties are MI, but if those 49 were displaced, they couldn't fit in the harbor.

Al Cottone questions if the commercial vessels are temporarily moved, is there any potential chance of them not being allowed back.

Damon Cummings mentions that once the uses are changed, everything will be upgraded which costs money, so the commercial vessels will be pushed out just based on prices going up.

Sarah Garcia says there's a height limit of 40 feet, so there isn't much potential for that since people couldn't make high rise condos with that limit.

Al Cottone moves on to fisheries aid, says he thinks it's premature to send anything forward until the decision comes out on where the money is being put.

Angela Sanfilippo says she doesn't think or favor a boat buyback happening; there's concern that people might just take the money from the buyback and then turn around and sell their boat.

Mark Ring questions where the benefit to the industry is, or if it's just to the person.

Al Cottone says the issue is the guidelines that will be in place, it isn't a good deal unless a certain percent of the fishery is bought out.

Sarah Garcia adds that NOAA hosted a buyback meeting and said the industry doesn't want to do anything without some kind of economic forecast of what NOAA expects, a model.

Al Cottone says they have a lot of ability to do things, but no guts, and there's simply not enough time to tie a buy back into the disaster money.

Sarah Garcia clarifies that a buyout is if federal or disaster money is used and a buyback is if the industry funds it.

Paul Lundberg introduces a council order for the council to be on record as supporting the money to go for direct relief to disaster impact areas, directly to disaster services.

Sefatia Theken says they support the fishermen, not letting the money go other places; they want to support the fishermen, not dictate where the money is going.

Mark Ring says it needs to be as specific as possible without giving the impression that the city wants the money, but without restrictions, people could take and use the money to get out rather than improve the industry. There's consensus that no one wants the money going towards research rather than disaster relief.

Al Cottone says the decision of which disaster zone gets how much money will happen fairly quickly, but it won't actually be distributed for 6-8 months.

Joe Orlando says they won't count these three years, the people who're leasing should get the money since it isn't their fault they had to sell.

Al Cottone mentions a way to change it would be to change the way leasing is done, that's the way to get guys sitting on the sidelines collecting money back into fishing.

Joe Orlando says some people can't afford to go fishing, they won't make it three years. Everybody needs more fish and the only way to get that is to have an industry-funded buyout.

Al Cottone suggests putting some seed money in for an industry funded buyout. If the government buys out the people, then the percentage stays the same, but if they buy the permits, that quota goes away.

Valerie Nelson mentions that the full quota is not being caught since people are withholding choke species, so putting money into buying up some of the unleased quota could be helpful.

Angela Sanfilippo wants to lease the fish to the permit bank so that it doesn't disappear to the government.

Joe Orlando responds that an industry-funded buyback would do just that. He makes a motion to table this until the next meeting, seconded by **Scott Swicker**, all in favor.

Sefatia Theken asks for the minutes and the dockage study to go into dropboxes, and mentions there's a hearing Monday night for the DPA.

Mark Ring says they were asked by the coalition to write a letter of support for Libby Etree for the Management Council.

Al Cottone says they should support her, she knows the industry inside and out.

Angela Sanfilippo makes a motion that the fisheries commission writes a letter of support for Libby Etree, seconded by **Joe Orlando**, all in favor.

Sarah Garcia says she'll take **Mark Ring's** letter and put it on the official letterhead. She mentions that an English company that sells smoked fish is temporarily at Intershell and if they stay they'd eventually want to smoke local fish. In addition, there is an ocean development center for I4C2 that's being worked on. So far, it will be three areas: fisheries around management for research, ocean engineering, and food sciences. There's a workshop Tuesday for people who are interested, it's at three o'clock at the Endicott commercial street facility.

Lastly, Molly Lutcavage wants to host the fisheries speaking series again at the Maritime Heritage Center. Would the Commission back using some harbor funds to support her?

Sefatia Theken makes a motion that the city supports the fishery series down at the heritage center, seconded by **Angela Sanfilippo**, all in favor.

Valerie Nelson asks if Mazetta Fish is a big piece of the national frozen product.

Sefatia Theken says she doesn't want any frozen product, but if it gets jobs and gets people working then it's good.

Al Cottone warns about some blowback when barges come in unloading frozen fish.

Angela Sanfilippo brings up the issue of what constitutes a disaster and what doesn't. There was a man that came in and said he'll go to Washington and talk to the small business disaster program because this model doesn't really fit for Gloucester, there'll be the same issue year after year rather than rebuilding and staying good. She's going to work with some fishermen and figure out what makes people eligible for loans and whether that connects to the disaster fund.

Al Cottone adds that the man left knowing the programs he brought couldn't help anybody and is going to try and change them so that they can.

Lise Breen asks what the man's name was and if he's connected with NOAA.

Angela Sanfilippo answers that it's Robert Nelson [of the Small Business Association] and he was here with NOAA, but left to try and find a pattern that matches and will be helpful. She makes a motion to adjourn at 8:53, seconded by **Al Cottone**. All in favor.