



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

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Members:

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

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Also in attendance: Sarah Garcia; Patti Page; Suzanne Altenberger; Linn Parisi, Seaport Gloucester

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**Mark Ring** called the meeting to order at 7:13 and introduces Linn Parisi from Discover Gloucester.

**Linn Parisi** explains that Discover Gloucester is a volunteer effort that started seven years ago. It started with money that businesses put in, no funding from the city. Most of its money comes from the advertising in their visitor guide, which has up to 100 partners buying advertisements. They are expanding the guide to include a seafood trail for the Massachusetts coast to increase visitation to all the restaurants and people who are selling or have anything to do with the ocean to table process. In order to help the struggling port money needs to be made off idle boats. If lobster or fishing boats could take people out for a few hours they could make a lot of money, people are interested in just seeing what it is like.

**Mark Ring** asks if the group has connected with the Commonwealth Quality Program.

**Linn Parisi** says the group does not do events, but will probably be connected to the charter central.

**Angela Sanfilippo** questions why the Fisherman's Wives Memorial is not included in the timeline.

**Linn Parisi** answers that the group was told they needed permission for a picture of it. They spend almost \$10,000/year distributing the guide.

**Joe Orlando** tells her to call him if she ever needs pictures of fishermen working on vessels.

**Mark Ring** says people would pay a lot of money to go fishing with real fishermen or lobstermen, people are interested in that, even for short trips or for a day. He asks Linn Parisi if the members of the group are people who left the chamber or are still part of it.

**Linn Parisi** answers it is all people who are not in that anymore and says they print 125,000 copies of the guide. She says the group does many consumer and appointment shows and it seems to have had an effect on awareness of inns since people are coming earlier in the year and staying later.

**Mark Ring** asks why there aren't buses near the museum on Pleasant St if they work with them.

**Linn Parisi** answers they aren't allowed to park there, but they do utilize it, and tells Angela Sanfilippo she could bring some copies of the guide over for her.

**Greg Verga** asks when the next printing is, the one for 2014-2015.

**Linn Parisi** answers that it closes in two weeks and then goes out. If they are including a timeline this year the Fishermen's Wives statue will definitely be on it. She agrees with Mark Ring that the heritage center wharf is underutilized, but that the group is all time and money and volunteers so it is difficult to get it all out there. It would be much easier if they had money to spend.

**Scott Swicker** adds that he takes twenty people around for a tour for a group that brings people around Boston and they all say it is their favorite part of the trip.

**Mark Ring** says to definitely get hold of them if they have people who want to go out on boats.

**Linn Parisi** tells Angela she has seen her demonstration and talks down at New Bedford and thinks Angela should do these at the seafood festival. Creating a seafood festival here could be great; a whole month of a different restaurant each night. She thanks the group for inviting her.

**Mark Ring** brings up the disaster money that was tabled at the last meeting.

**Al Cottone** says there was a meeting with the states' directors. They voted and said it looked good, but without all the states on board it's not going anywhere. NOAA's pressuring the DMF, but they haven't said anything yet. There has to some threshold for landings to stem demand, but all the state directors have to sign off and it's hard to get them all to agree.

**Angela Sanfilippo** says she doesn't understand the fuss, last time it worked itself out so there's no need to panic.

**Al Cottone** says no one's going to sell permits right now since they won't get a good price. In the last ten months the value has gone down by 2/3, people everywhere are selling and bailing out because they have to.

**Joe Orlando** mentions that the big guys are only agreeing because they have a lot of permits so they'll get a lot more money and haven't had any losses. However, other states can't be hurt by it so it doesn't make sense for them to be holding back and refusing to sign.

**Al Cottone** says there were 450 boats in the qualifying period, which would split to around 20 grand each, but if it comes down to permits then they're screwed because all the big guys have tons. If it's by boats then everything's fine.

**Mark Ring** thinks it should be capped at no more than 5 shares of money per person.

**Scott Swicker** says it should be treated like the preservation fund and have equal shares for all active boats so that it would help the small boats.

**BG Brown** questions how much say the state has since it's federal money.

**Sarah Garcia** answers the feds are using the state as an intermediary, but the state doesn't actually have any legal say on what money they get.

**Mark Ring** makes a motion for Angela Sanfilippo to call Paul Diodati at 8:24, seconded by Greg Verga, all in favor. He then moves on to the seafood show and says water is still an issue. The property hasn't actually been bought and there's a lot of work that needs to be done.

**Angela Sanfilippo**, BG Brown, and Scott Swicker met with the people from Future of Fish and they hit on all the right points. She got a call from the Korean embassy in Boston who wanted to talk to her, they came in and when asked why they came to Gloucester the president said because it is the oldest active port in the US and possibly the world. He loved the two statues and his mission is to let people who eat the fish know that the fishermen are good hardworking people, because in other countries they aren't appreciated or valued and are looked down upon. They want us to value their friendship and said to tell the people of Gloucester they're really appreciated.

**Mark Ring** wants a meeting from 10-11:15 at the Heritage Center on March 26<sup>th</sup> with TV presentation and media coverage. Someone asked Mark Ring to write a letter for the paper thanking Senator Bruce Tarr and Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante for their help on the lobster-processing bill, but he thinks he should wait and link it to Mazetta.

**Greg Verga** says they shouldn't endorse someone since it's election year, might as well wait until after November.

**Mark Ring** agrees to table the letter.

**Sarah Garcia** asks if they should try to change the port recovery data or not. Mentions a presentation up at NOAA about how fishermen in Portsmouth tried to grow their own fish offshore, but it was too rough. Now they're doing steel head trout in the river with mussels and sugar kelp and it has been really successful. They have a 95% survival rate of the trout and are getting decent money.

**Al Cottone** says they're shut down the whole month of April so it's not worth changing the data. Comments that last winter there were storms with 30 foot seas so growing fish around here would just get destroyed.

**Mark Ring** says they should report to Salem State on how unsuccessful the offshore one was.

**Suzanne Altenberger** speaks about NOAA. Obama. Fishermen. When NOAA understands that people like us work with the navy then they might take us a bit more seriously.

**Al Cottone** makes a motion to adjourn at 8:59, seconded by Joe Orlando. All in favor.