

Gloucester Fisheries Commission

Meeting Minutes - November 20, 2014

Commission Members

Mark Ring, Chair
Al Cottone, Vice Chair
Sefatia Theken, City Council
Greg Verga, City Council
Paul Vitale

Joseph Orlando
BG Brown
Angela Sanfilippo
Scott Swicker

Commission Chair Mark Ring called the Meeting to order at 7:10 pm. The Meeting was held in the Third Floor Conference Room at the Gloucester City Hall, 9 Dale Avenue, Gloucester, MA.

Present: Mark Ring, Al Cottone, Joseph Orlando, Angela Sanfilippo, Scott Swicker - Sefatia Theken arrived at 7:40

MEETING MINUTES

The Commission Members reviewed and discussed the Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2014.

Angela Sanfilippo made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2014.

The motion was seconded by Joseph Orlando.

The Motion passed by the majority of Commission Members present; 5:0.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION - AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Commission Members discussed the necessity for an Executive Director of the Gloucester Fisheries Commission.

The Commission discussed the fact that historically there had been an Executive Director but the position had been dissolved. The current Commission would like to advocate for the position to be reestablished.

The Commission Members discussed how the Fisheries Commission had been formed and mandated by the State of Massachusetts in the 1950's. The Commission Members decided that they would research and attempt to locate the original Declaration and Bylaws for the Fisheries Commission.

The Commission Members present unanimously agreed that a new Executive Director of the Fisheries Commission should not report to the Mayor of the City but directly to the Fisheries Commission.

The Commission Members agreed that a new subcommittee should be formed and the role of the subcommittee would be to advocate for an Executive Fisheries Commission Director as well as define the job description and the responsibilities of a Director. The Commission Members present unanimously agreed that City Councilors should not be members of the new subcommittee.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION - SAND AND GRAVEL MINING

The Commission Members and Gloucester resident Patti Page who was in attendance, discussed the subject of sand and gravel mining and how it could affect the area.

Patti Page shared with the Commission information she had obtained regarding how in 2008 there had been a proposal of sand and gravel mining which would have had a direct effect on the City of Winthrop, Massachusetts. At that time the proposed sand and gravel mining was not allowed primarily due to the negative comments presented by the National Fisheries Service which ultimately caused the Army Corp of Engineers not to issue a permit.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION - RECENT MEETING WITH JOHN BULLARD

The Commission Members discussed the recent meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, which Fisheries Commission Members Angela Sanfilippo and Mark Ring attended. Angela and Mark shared with the Commission Members the information which was discussed and the fact that the City of Gloucester Mayor Carolyn Kirk, the Mayor's Chief Administrative Officer Salvatore Di Stefano, Sr., and John Bullard, the Northeast Regional Administrator of the NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) also attended the meeting.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION - WHALE PLAN

The Commission Members discussed the fact that the Whale Plan did pass and the Plan will be in effect from February 1, 2015 until May 1, 2015.

The Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan will affect those who use commercial trap/pot gear. The plan was developed by the National Fisheries Service.

The Commission Members discussed the fact that in August 2014, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) had submitted a letter which requested exemptions and modifications to the Whale Plan and that the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association had also submitted a letter in August 2014 which supported the requests of the DMF.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION - COD EMERGENCY ACTION

The National Marine Fisheries Service recently announced an emergency measure to prohibit cod fishing in a large portion of the Gulf of Maine and the NMFS proposed the measure to be in existence from November 13, 2014 through May 12, 2015.

The Commission Members discussed the fact that the proposed Emergency Action would close most areas until April 1st which is the end of the fishing year.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Joseph Orlando made a motion to adjourn.

Al Cottone seconded the motion.

The Motion passed by the majority of Commission Members present; 6:0.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.