

Gloucester Fisheries Commission
Meeting Minutes - December 18, 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 7:04 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, Paul Vitale, Angela Sanfilippo, Scott Swicker, Greg Verga

Absent: Sefatia Theken, Joseph Orlando, BG Brown

Meeting Minutes

The Commission Members reviewed and discussed the Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2014.

Scott Swicker made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2014.

The motion was seconded by Paul Vitale.

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

Presentation by Nicholas Welz of Tetra Tech - Recap of 2013 side scan sonar survey off Cape Ann

Tetra Tech was subcontracted by New Hampshire Transmission to obtain data for the Sea Link HVDC Submarine Cable Project. The SeaLink Project proposes to use High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Voltage Source Converting (VSC) technology to transmit power underground and under water over long distances. Senior Marine Scientist and Subsea Cable Lead from Tetra Tech Nicholas G. Welz, presented a video and discussed the results of the research obtained during July - October 2013. He explained in detail how the data was obtained, the areas where they collected data and the routes taken by the research team. He explained the shipboard and post survey interpretations as well as the what marine archaeological data had been obtained. There was a brief question and answer period following the presentation.

New Business - Joint Meeting

Commission Discussion about the upcoming City Council Public Hearing on the state of the Fishing Industry with Gloucester City Counselor President Paul McGeary.

There have been recent discussions about holding a Joint Meeting of the City Council and the Fisheries Commission to discuss the Fishing Industry.

Concepts brought forward this evening as a proposed topics of discussion for the Joint Meeting were:

- What are the immediate needs of the fishermen; i.e., what are the needs of the fishermen 55 years or older and what are the needs for the younger fishermen?
- What is the long term focus for the Fishing Industry?
- What portion of the harbor is set aside for the Fishing Industry?

A draft agenda for the Joint Meeting was presented by Paul McGeary to the Fisheries Commission Board Members present this evening. The draft agenda was reviewed and there was more discussion regarding the agenda items, the date, the time, and the location of the proposed Joint Meeting.

The tentative date for the Joint Meeting is set for January 15th or 16th.

Greg Verga asked if there could be an agenda item for the Joint Meeting Agenda which is set to discuss the reestablishment of a Fisheries Commissioner.

Angela Sanfilippo brought forward the fact that a Port Recovery Plan was completed a year ago. She suggested that everyone 'doesn't reinvent the wheel' and that the agenda items be prioritized.

Angela also suggested that a Representative from the processing side of the Fisheries Industry be present for the Joint Meeting. The Commission Members collaborated and discussed possible people who would be willing to attend a Joint Meeting and represent the processing side of the fishing business.

Angela asked if the press would be invited to the Joint Meeting. Paul McGeary replied that the intent of the Joint Meeting was to bring as much publicity as possible.

The Commission Members and Paul McGeary discussed who else would be attending the Joint Meeting and who should be formally invited.

New Business - Commission Discussion regarding Oil Drilling

Angela Sanfilippo brought to the table the topic of oil drilling. She explained how President Barack Obama announced a ban on future oil and gas drilling in Bristol Bay, Alaska, by way of a Presidential Memorandum which was issued in December 2014. Angela wanted to point out that George's Bank is not protected against oil drilling and she volunteered to contact the organizers in Alaska who initiated the ban there to find out what data they used to initiate the ban.

Waterways Board Representative and Commission Discussion: Extending the No Wake Zone

Tony Gross, Representative of the Waterways Board attended the Fisheries Commission Meeting this evening to discuss the fact that there have been citizens requesting that the Waterways Board extend the no wake zone in the outer harbor. Tony Gross said that the Waterways Board has talked to the Coast Guard, the Environmental Police and the Gloucester Police Department and the one concern that was brought forward was the ability to patrol the extended area. The Commission Members suggested a zone where the speed would be 10 knots and the Commission Members agreed there could be resistance against creating a no wake zone.

Commission Discussion: The Job Description for an Executive Director of the Fisheries Commission

The Commission Members reviewed a draft job description for a Fisheries Commissioner. It was decided that in the near future Mark, Angela and Scott would form a subcommittee to further discuss and work on a job description for the potential job.

Regular Business

Richard Burgess, President of Gloucester Sector 3 which is the Gillnet Sector, asked if the Fisheries Commission would support Sector 3's position regarding the Strategic Plan drafted by The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) of NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

According to GARFO they have drafted a five year strategic plan that identifies objectives associated with seven primary goals which they state are sustainable fisheries, protecting resources, habitat conservation, community resiliency, aquaculture, organizational excellence and customer service.

The Fisheries Commission Members ruled to write the letter on behalf of the Fisheries Commission and Representatives for Sector 3 could write their own letter.

Greg Verga: I move we support the Chair to write a letter and for him to write what he deems necessary as the Representative of the Fisheries Commission.

Scott Swicker seconded the motion.

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

Commission Discussion - Aquaculture

The Commission Members discussed the topic of aquaculture. Specifically the Commission discussed the results where aquaculture areas have existed for a long period of time and some of the conclusions about the industry which have been forthcoming from the country of Norway.

Motion to Adjourn

Greg Verga made a motion to adjourn.

Paul Vitale seconded the motion.

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

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on January 15, 2014, in the Third Floor Conference Room at the Gloucester City Hall, 9 Dale Avenue, Gloucester, MA, and will commence at 7 P.M.