

Gloucester Fisheries Commission

Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2015

Commission Members

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

Joseph Orlando
BG Brown
Angela Sanfilippo
Scott Swicker

Present: Mark Ring, Angela Sanfilippo, Greg Verga, Joe Orlando, Scott Swicker, Al Cottone

Absent: BG Brown, Paul Vitale

Fisheries Commission Chair Mark Ring called the Meeting to order at 7:08 PM. The Meeting was held in the First Floor Conference Room at the Gloucester City Hall, 9 Dale Avenue, Gloucester, MA.

Commission Discussion: Request from the Waterways Board regarding possible dredging of the Annisquam River

Anthony Gross, Chair of the Gloucester Waterways Board presented a letter written by the Waterways Board to be sent to Congressman Seth Moulton requesting funds for the dredging of the Annisquam River to the Fisheries Commission Members. He also asked for the Commission's input and support for the letter.

The Commission Members and Anthony Gross discussed past situations when there had been dredging down and/or when dredging had been proposed. Anthony Gross said he would be meeting with the Army Corp of Engineers to discuss the potential project.

Greg Verga made a motion to authorize the Fisheries Commission Chair to sign the letter on behalf of the Commission.
Al Cottone seconded the motion.

Commission Discussion: The 2015 Boston Seafood Show

Commission Member discussed a successful presence for the City of Gloucester at the Boston Seafood Show. Commission Members who volunteered their time shared their experiences and all agreed the red fish soup was a big success.

Distribution of Bin 3 Disaster Relief Funds

Joseph Orlando shared with the Commission Members the news that the Bin 3 funds which were potentially going to be allocated for a Vessel or Permit Buyback and/or Buyout Program will now be going back to the State to be disbursed as disaster relief funds.

Commission Discussion – A Progress Report on the Bin 2 funds

The Commission Members discussed the fact that in May 2014 the state fishery directors from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut New York and NOAA, announced a framework for the distribution of federal disaster aid monies to the New England ground fish industry. Angela Sanfilippo shared the fact that the final date to submit applications to obtain a portion of the funds has been set and it will be April 24, 2015.

Commission Discussion – Update on CACFLF Progress in making loans more accessible for ground fish allocation

The Commission Members discussed the Commercial Fisheries Loan Fund to preserve fishing opportunities for small-scale fishermen struggling through the recent transition to catch share management in the Northeast ground fish fishery and the fact that Chair, Mark Ring has spoken with Melanie Griffin, Fisheries Management Specialist for the Division of Marine Fisheries of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and there may be an update regarding the funds soon.

Commission Discussion: An Executive Director for the Fisheries Commission

Following the Subcommittee's discussions (Angela, Mark and Scott) the Fisheries Commission Chair Mark Ring submitted a proposal to the City for the potential position of an Executive Director for the Fisheries Commission.

The Cape Ann Commercial Fishermen's Loan Fund

The Commission Members discussed Cape Ann Commercial Fishermen's Loan Fund which provides money for fishing businesses that have exhausted traditional loan avenues and the fact that Committee along with the assistance of Attorney Salvatore J. Frontiero will be developing a new, streamlined, application process for the loans.

Motion to Adjourn

Angela Sanfilippo 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 8:21 PM

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on April 16, 2015, in the Third Floor Conference Room at the Gloucester City Hall, 9 Dale Avenue, Gloucester, MA, and will commence at 7 PM.