

APPROVED MINUTES  
DERELICT AND ABANDONED VESSEL AND OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL COMMISSION  
MEETING

Tuesday, September 24, 2019  
held at RIDEM Wickford Marine Base  
150 Fowler Street, North Kingstown, RI 02852

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kurt Blanchard, DEM, Div. of Law Enf., Chair  
Dan Goulet, CRMC, Member  
Tim Mills, RI Harbormasters Assn., Member  
Dave Prescott, Save the Bay, Member

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Hoefsmit, Counsel to the DAVOR Comm.  
JoAnne Scorpio, Secretary to the DAVOR Comm.

EXCUSED FROM ATTENDANCE:

Mac Cooper, RIMTA, Member

I. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Derelict and Abandoned Vessel and Obstruction Removal Commission was called to order at approximately 9:00am on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at the RIDEM, Division of Law Enforcement, Wickford Marine Base, 150 Fowler St., No. Kingstown, RI. Kurt Blanchard, Chair presided over the meeting. A quorum was present that included the above-listed members.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. Proposed Meeting Minutes Review and Vote:

Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the Thursday, January 10, 2019 meeting. The minutes were approved as amended<sup>1</sup>. The Chair entertained a **MOTION** to accept the minutes; Commissioner Mills moved to **APPROVED**, Commissioner Prescott **SECONDED** the motion. Vote was **UNANIMOUS**, *Voted 4-0 in favor.*

2. Application Review:

(a) No new applications were received for this period.

(b) Chair Blanchard advised of a boat owner who was previously granted funds (\$5,000) to have his derelict/abandoned boat removed. The boat owner defaulted on his final payments to the state. He had been sending payments for approximately two years but had not sent any payment for 2019. When the Chair contacted him, he was cooperative and agreed to send the balance in full in a one-time single payment. The Chair also advised that once the boat owner is paid in full, Atty. Hoefsmit will draft a letter confirming that his financial obligation to the state has been met.

<sup>1</sup> Section 4. 2019 Schedule Meetings: "Thursday, September 24, 2019..." changed to "Tuesday, September 24, 2019.."

### III. NEW BUSINESS

#### Organizing Efforts for Program Awareness:

The Chair advised that the program is well funded. Commissioners then discussed how to reach out more to municipalities/public about the program. They agreed to send out another letter to the harbormasters reminding them that funding is available. Commissioner Prescott added that if the harbormasters or town officials can identify vessels to be removed, perhaps using Google Maps to keep track of what's out there would show where more outreach should be focus on.

Commissioners also talked about sending an additional notice to the harbormasters requesting their support in working with the commission to do an assessment and get feedback. They also discussed how to expand the program in pursuing freshwater lakes/ponds/rivers depending what regulatory changes there are.

#### IV. 2020 SCHEDULE MEETINGS:

1. Next schedule meeting will be Thursday, January 23, 2020 beginning at approximately 9:00 am at the DEM, Div. of Law Enf. Marine Base, 150 Fowler Street, North Kingstown, RI 02852.
2. The second meeting for 2020 will take place on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 beginning at 9:00 am. at same location.

#### V. MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting; Member Tim Mills **SECONDED** the motion. *Vote was UNANIMOUS, 4-0.* The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Js/2