

KENT COUNTY
PUBLIC LANDINGS & FACILITIES
December 9, 2019
Meeting Minutes

I CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Kent County Board of Public Landings & Facilities was called to order by Chairman Jacquette on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 6:00PM. Those in attendance were James Jacquette, Jr., Marc Castelli, Clay Larrimore, Chuckie White and Division Chief Marty Holden.

The minutes of September 16, 2019 were approved as submitted.

II ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers was held with Marc Castelli moving into the Chairman position and William Collyer taking over the Vice-Chairman position for 2020.

III OLD BUSINESS

Fee Increases

Mr. Holden advised the fee increases for the trailer permits will take effect on January 1, 2020. The resident permit will increase to \$30.00 and the non-resident permit will increase to \$75.00. There is no change for 3-day permits.

Mill Creek Dredging

Mr. Holden stated that the channel dredging is complete. Originally 8,400 cubic yards of material was estimated to be removed and once dredging was completed there was 12,900 cubic yards of material removed. The total cost of the project increased to \$639,339.70. The project cost will be split between the Department of Natural Resources and the Friends of Mill Creek. The county acted as a liaison between the two, which included the DNR grant work. No county funds were involved in the project.

Turner's Creek Bulkhead Replacement Project

Mr. Holden reiterated that the bulkhead work would not be completed this winter. The County has applied for 100% DNR grant funding in the amount of \$250,000 to cover the replacement of the boat ramp, as suggested by DNR. The bulkhead project grant funding will be extended by one (1) year. The county should receive notice of grant funding for the boat ramp replacement sometime in May 2020. If grant funding is approved, the work will be scheduled for next winter (November 2020-March 2021).

Long Cove boat ramp

Mr. Holden advised that Deckelman's Pile Driving completed the repairs to the boat ramp by installing stone to fill in the holes between the concrete sections. Mr. Holden continued that they did an excellent job and the cost of the project was \$1,600.00

Buck Neck

Mr. Robert Joiner, who is a waterman that works out of Buck Neck Public Landing was present to discuss some ongoing issues at the public landing. Mr. Joiner started by advising the importance of the public landings. Mr. Joiner advised that the work he performs today by truck and crane, there is no way could be done by hand as done in the past. Mr. Joiner was provided with an aerial photograph of the property boundaries of Buck Neck from a Board Member and advised that today (12/9/19) he used the boundary line photo to determine that (if correct) there are 10 feet of building, diesel and gasoline tanks buried, propane tanks, a fence and 3 dumpsters that belong to Worton Creek Marina located on county property. Mr. Joiner stated one of his main concerns are the buried fuel tanks and if the county would be responsible should there be any type of issue with either of them.

Mr. Joiner then explained to the Board the process required to unload his equipment and catch at Buck Neck and advised that with marina employees parking on the landing and the current placement of the dumpsters the process becomes much more difficult and takes so much more time. He advised that there are times when boats from the marina are placed on the landing making the unload process impossible until they move the boat, which could take over an hour for the marina employees to move. At times, those picking up the watermen's catch are on a time constraint and the delays caused by the marina

utilizing the landing have caused hardships for them. Mr. Joiner advised that they only utilize the landing for a brief time and then move, but there have been enough issues with marina operations interfering with the use of the landing that he felt the need to come discuss with the Board. Mr. Joiner did state that anytime that they have had an issue the marina employees do their best to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

Mr. Holden stated that Mr. Patnovic, again this year, requested and received approval for the storage of a large vessel that partially is located on the landing.

Mr. Holden advised that he and the Public Works Director met with Mr. John Patnovic, owner of Worton Creek Marina, on December 4, 2019 and discussed that the Planning Office identified the property boundaries that show the fence, storage area and portions of a building on county property. They advised him that the County would be doing a deed search and survey and the findings would be presented to the Commissioners to determine how they would like to proceed.

Mr. Holden stated that other topics discussed with Mr. Patnovic included concerns about access to the bulkhead and the load & unload only area, the marina employees parking on the landing and storage of vessels/equipment on the landing. Mr. Patnovic advised that he would have his employees park along Buck Neck Road. He offered to place no parking signs at the load & unload only area. He has and will continue to allow landing users to utilize the dumpsters and he stated that anyone that has an issue with access or marina operations are encouraged to make contact with him for a resolution.

Mr. Holden stated that only one (1) dumpster would remain after the current work at the marina is completed and he felt that the county should place the “No Parking” signs along the load & unload only area due to enforcement procedures.

Mr. Holden presented several potential changes that could be made, they include to stop allowing storage of the large vessel during the winter months, stop the temporary placing of vessels/equipment on landing and change the location of the load & unload area. The Board, along with Mr. Joiner, didn't believe that moving the load & unload only area would be necessary.

Mr. Holden advised that the deed search and survey would need to be completed as soon as possible to determine what Worton Creek Marina is utilizing of the county landing and how to proceed.

IV NEW BUSINESS

Turner's Creek

Mr. Joiner thanked the Board for the installation of electric at the bulkhead and stated that it's really been an asset at the Turner Creek facility.

Chestertown Marina

Mr. Joiner was asked if they would remain at the new marina and he advised that their ability to load/unload is extremely limited at the facility. They are currently renting on a month to month basis to see if they can make it work.

Commercial Mooring Renewal

Mr. Holden advised that the commercial mooring renewals have been received from marinas/organizations except for Lankford Bay Marina and due to extenuating circumstances, we are working with them on their renewal.

V ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 9, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Fletcher