



SCHOONER ERNESTINA COMMISSION (SEC)
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Minutes of Meeting of 9/22/16

Meeting was called to order at 1:05pm. Present were SEC members Laura Pires Hester, Licy DoCanto, Eugene Monteiro, Ed DePina, Karl Pastore, Dagny Ashley, and Jonathan Carvalho. Brian Rothschild was absent. Also present were Wendy Pearle, Mary Anne McQuillan, Gunga Tavares Julius Britto, Chuck Smiler, Rick Porteus, Harold Burnham, Jim Montgomery, Audra Riding, and Alves Medeiros

Everyone introduced themselves and Laura recognized the diversity of the group today which comes from many sectors of society, government etc. The 3 new SEC commissioners were introduced; Ed DePina, Dagny Ashley, and Jonathan Carvalho. Licy moved to approve today's agenda and seconded by Jonathan. Upon review of the notes and minutes of 5/23/16 and 6/10/16, motion to approve and second was made by Licy and Jonathan; approved.

FEEDBACK ON STATE AUDIT

Laura identified the SEC responsibilities and deficiencies as stated in the report. She said a meeting was held during the summer with the auditors to discuss the report and to identify solutions to correct the problems listed. Licy outlined the benefits of the meeting going forward. Ed was physically present at the meeting while Licy and others were on the phone. Jim Montgomery said the meeting provided an opportunity to learn how each entity is connected and to discuss ways of improving on future audits. Jim felt that the meeting will go a long way toward building relationships. Ed said that SEC will interact further with DCR to develop a better system to promote compliance in the future. Wendy suggested that improved record keeping will help us as the March deadline approaches. Licy asked Ed to think through steps needed to improve record keeping and audit responsibilities.

REPORT FROM DCR

Wendy provided her report that contains spending to date as to Boothbay project. She added that capital money must be spent during each fiscal year. The report contains language as to phase 1 overhaul, phase 2 fit out and certification, project overview and various photos of E-M at Boothbay.

She stated that Gerry Lenfest and Bob Hildreth visited the vessel several weeks ago and were satisfied with what they saw. They raised concerns about phase 2 of the project. At this time there is nothing in writing from Mass Maritime [MMA] as to their commitment.

Harold spoke about unexpected work that was discovered as something that needs attention; some planks and framing require replacement at a cost of about \$135,000. Licy asked if this was anticipated early on. Harold said no and that they were hoping for the best at that time. He was also hoping that Boothbay would "eat" any additional cost beyond the contract, but that is not the case. Harold recommends the added work be authorized and completed. Licy inquired if there might be other surprises as to hull work and Harold said no as it applies to the contract. Boothbay needs a go ahead as to the additional work. Laura was seeking a vote from SEC on the additional unexpected work as stated by Harold. Gene presented a motion that was seconded by Dagny, that SEC support and recommend that \$135,000 be authorized for the additional planking and framing of Ernestina-Morrissey as outlined by Harold Burnham today. Voting in favor of this motion were Karl, Dagny, Jonathan and Gene. Opposed were Licy and Ed. Brian was absent. Motion carried.

There was discussion about the tonnage of the ship and Harold is planning to meet with the Coast Guard to request a waiver that would allow for a specific class of tonnage. The vessel is currently 140 tons and there is a need to change that as future use of E-M gets defined.

REPORT FROM SEMA

Julius stated that Mr. Stackpole has been meeting with potential donors, Kristen continues to work on identifying grants that will benefit the fundraising effort. A fundraising party was held recently with another scheduled for October 1, 2016.

SEMA is seeking potential board members who can help promote and support the mission.

The question was raised as to how can SEC help. Julius' reply was that getting an MOU/MOA with MMA would be a big help so donors would have a clearer understanding as to what is at stake.

SEMA also recommends a 'vetted' assessment for phase 2, and that SEMA needs to identify other financial opportunities.

Gene stated that the New Bedford Whaling Museum supports having a fundraising event at the facility in 2017, and that the Cape Verdean Advisory Committee of the museum is brainstorming as to determining a date and type of event.

OTHER MATTERS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura stated her concern that we appear to be "in the doldrums" with regard to the MOU/MOA. She is frustrated that there is no action or movement. In conversation with President Fran McDonald of MA Maritime, he indicated that he was also looking forward to meeting to work on this matter. She is asking DCR to get things moving. Wendy said Commissioner Roy is supportive of getting things moving and Jim Montgomery said he will assist with pushing things forward.

Chuck said that while SEMA needs phase 2 information, he felt they would need phase 3 figures as well. Julius disagreed.

Chuck reported about the positive experience from the use of E-M surplus material used at the show presented at Gallery X in New Bedford recently. Half of the money raised will go to SEMA.

Laura asked Jonathan to look into finding storage space for certain E-M equipment.

Positive remarks about the E-M initiative were made by Gunga Tavares of the Cape Verdean Consulate's office, Audra Riding of Senator Montigny's office, and Al Medeiros of Representative Tony Cabral's office.

Rick Porteus stated that an educational plan would also do much to push things along. A compelling plan would assist with fund raising concerns as well.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm

Submitted by Gene Monteiro