

Mystic Harbor Management Commission  
February 5, 2009

The Mystic Harbor Management Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fourth District Voting Hall. Commission members present were: Chairman David Carreau, Lou Allyn, John Washburn, Oliver Wilson, Fred Allard, Dick Lotz and John Lee. Harbormaster Paul Watts, Stonington Harbormaster Eric Donch, Frank Toscano, Jack Morehouse, Christian McGugan, Matt Snyder, and Jeff Anderson were also present.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Carreau called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The Commission said the pledge of allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Allyn made a motion to accept the December 4, 2008 minutes. Mr. Lee seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Commission.

**Reckless Boating Operation**

Mr. Morehouse from Mason's Island Marina expressed concern of the unintended consequence of modifying the Connecticut General Statutes under H.B. #5476 regarding the speed limit in the Mystic River. Marinas will have a problem of on-the-water diagnosing, repairing and testing of boats for their customers. Multiple trips to Fishers Island Sound would result in prohibitive costs to their customers especially in our declining economy. Mr. Morehouse is in favor of the no wake limits where presently required. The river has had very few accidents. The greatest danger is drinking and boating.

Mr. Toscano expressed his opposition to the 6 mph limit stating the negative impact it will have on business.

Mr. McGugan from Gwenmor Marina stated that the Connecticut Marine Trade Association is against the change in speed limit and will lobby against it. The problems come from the lack of police boat availability.

Mr. Snyder read his letter in opposition to the change. He pointed out the wake issue of a given boat as being the problem.

Stonington Harbormaster Donch stated that the state of Connecticut is changing signs from 6mph to no wake as a better criterion. He stated that the Boaters Guide from the state DEP differs from the states C.G.S. 15-16. He has worked with the Stonington police and utilized the existing laws to control reckless boat operations.

Harbormaster Watts stated his support of the change for the safety of boaters and to reduce wakes.

Mr. Lotz and Mr. Allard suggested that the wording differences of the rules presented to the public be analyzed for a change to obtain consistency and enforceability rather than an immediate change of a different nature.

**Harbormasters Report:**

Harbormaster Watts reported 210 moorings have been renewed. A new updated mooring wait list is being produced. We will have 6 new mooring sites this year.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Transient Dock tie up enforcement**

The sign has been made and will be installed in the spring.

**Jail House Pt. Float and Anchorage Buoys**

Planning for summer use will get started.

New Business:

**New Application DEP # 200600003 DL Skiffs Lane**

A motion was made by Mr. Lee that the commission does not object to the concept proposed for New Application DEP # 200600003 DL Skiffs Lane, and it is consistent with the Mystic Harbor Management Plan. Mr. Allard seconded the motion. It was approved. Mr. Allyn abstained.

**Valley Shore maritime Hurricane Exercise**

The Valley Shore maritime Hurricane Exercise will be held Saturday February 14, at the DEP marine Headquarters, Old Lyme.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Allyn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Mr. Washburn seconded the motion and it was so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

David Carreau, Chairman