

Final Minutes
 [Signature]
 4/14/14



Stonington Harbor Management Commission

March 10, 2014

Minutes (B. MacKinnon, Acting Secretary)



1. Call To Order :

Chairman Spalding called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM at the Stonington Police Headquarters meeting room. Attending were Chairman Spalding, Commissioners O'Neill, Motherway, MacKinnon, Diggs, Tacy, Smith, Crites and Rose, Harbormaster Donch and Assistant HM Estabrooks. Commissioner Johnstone did not attend.

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the February 10, 2014 meeting were read. Mr. MacKinnon moved they be accepted as read, Mr. O'Neill seconded and the minutes were unanimously accepted as read.

3. Special Purpose Mooring Applications:

Harbormaster Donch reported that as of March 7, 2014 (Friday) only one group had responded to the advertisement requesting applications for special purpose moorings. That group, NESS was represented at this meeting by Mr. Spike Lobdell and Mr. Mark Zagol.

Mr. Lobdell thanked the Commission for providing four special purpose moorings last season and explained that they hadn't been able to utilize them fully due to late setting of moorings and late boat acquisitions. He assured the Commission that this season they already have three boats to use the moorings and a fourth is promised. They will, in fact, have five boats soon but are only requesting four moorings.

Mr. Lobdell went on to highlight the NESS program during 2013. They enjoyed an over 100% increase compared to 2012 with 2700 students participating in their programs. They have expanded their programs into schools including New London, CT and Providence, RI with 30% of the students receiving scholarships. Thus they are extending the sailing experience to many who might otherwise be unable to have it. They also have been designated as a camp, which allows their students to have longer days at the facility. NESS has been recognized by US Sailing as the nation's Outstanding Community Sailing Center for 2013.

Mr. Zagol, NESS Program Director described the four boats planned for special purpose moorings: one J105, 2 Sonars (23' sailboats), and one Hunter 212. Another Sonar will be

acquired later this year. He explained that these boats are designed for allowing adults to learn to sail as well as allow young people to experience sailing in larger boats. They will allow up to six students and two instructors to spend entire days on the boats in order for them to experience "cruising" and marine science excursions.

Mr. Diggs asked how the public could have access to the NESS boats. Are they available to anyone who might qualify as a proficient sailor? Mr. Lobdell responded that one must participate in a NESS program or lesson to use the boats. Private lessons for youth and adults are available but the Planning and Zoning Commission will not allow NESS to be a "rental" facility.

Mr. Tacy moved that NESS be granted four special purpose moorings for the 2014 season and Mr. MacKinnon seconded.

Discussion followed with Mr. Diggs recommending that two moorings be granted now and perhaps using the north side of the NESS pier to moor two of the larger boats. This would allow space for two moorings to be assigned to applicants on the waiting list. Mr. Lobdell pointed out that there would be a safety hazard if students were required to climb ladders and board boats moored to the pier since it is constructed with double width pilings and fixed high above the water. After further discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed with Mr. Diggs opposing and Mr. Rose recusing himself due to his employment by NESS.

Harbormaster Donch was directed to establish the exact location for the four moorings to be placed. He intends to place the special purpose moorings in locations that would be inappropriate for private moorings in order to allow more assignments of moorings to applicants on the waiting list.

If additional requests are made for special purpose moorings at the next few meetings of the Commission, they will be considered then.

4. Correspondence:

a. In Jurisdiction

Application was received from NESS for modifications to their pier and dock. Mr. Lobdell presented the NESS plan to modify only the South face of their pier with new floating docks, a lifting crane, and a floating dock off the West end of the pier. An additional handicap access ramp is planned along the South side also.

The NESS master plan for new docks includes additions to the North side and West end of the pier. Mr. Lobdell explained that NESS is currently in negotiations with their neighbors to the North (Mr. R. Hritz) and South (Mr. R. Griffin) to work out an agreement that would allow construction on the North side that would not interfere with Mr. Hritz' access to the channel. Therefore, at this time, they are asking only for the South side modifications which will not affect access by Mr. Griffin, the abutting neighbor to the South. Mr. Lobdell assured the Commission that NESS has the support of Mr. Griffin to the South and a fairway agreement exists between Mr. Griffin and NESS.

Mr. Lobdell hopes to have an agreement in place with Mr. Hritz by the April Commission meeting. Mr. MacKinnon expressed that the Commission would appreciate a written legal document that clarifies any agreement between NESS and neighbors to the North. Consideration also must be given to the neighbor abutting Mr. Hritz (Mr. And Mrs. Gerstein) due to the severe congestion of waterfront homes in that area. Mr. Lobdell assured the Commission that NESS intends to comply with that request.

Mr. Crites moved that the planned expansion only to the South of the pier, as presented, have the Commission's approval. Mr. O'Neill seconded the motion and after further discussion the motion was passed unanimously. Chairman Spalding will file the Commission determination with DEEP, adding the comments that approval is limited to the South expansion only.

b. Out of jurisdiction:

There was no out of jurisdiction correspondence.

5. Treasurer's report:

Mr. Crites presented the February treasurer's report which had been distributed prior to the meeting. There were no changes to be made and Mr Crites moved that the report be accepted as presented. Mr. Diggs seconded and the report was accepted as presented. The treasurer's report is attached.

a. Capital expenditure planning:

The 2014 financial plan was discussed as well as the budget planning for the next five years which Mr. Crites has estimated and distributed for the use of the Commission members. Mr. Crites estimates that 2014 will end with a surplus of \$2,805.00. The Commission will investigate and obtain an estimate to extend the Harbormaster Dock and offer space to the Police Department for their boat as well as the Shellfish Commission boat in the future if an extension is constructed. Mr. Diggs and HM Donch will pursue an estimate for that dock extension.

Mr. Crites moved that the plan be accepted as written, Mr. Smith seconded and the plan was accepted unanimously.

6. Harbormaster's report:

HM Donch had not prepared a written report.

Mr. Donch has contacted the Southern New England Fisherman's Association regarding their broken cement dock to the North of the Town Dock. SNFA assured him that the dock will be replaced with one equal size. Mr. Diggs requested that HM Donch ask that cement docks not be used again if at all possible due to its history of failure.

The town dinghy dock to the South of Skipper's dock will also be repaired as needed.

Mr. Donch discussed his ongoing investigation of how to deal with derelict boats in the harbor, specifically "Marmion" which has sunk at the owner's dock and seems to fall into the definition of a derelict boat. Mr. Donch will observe the boat from the water within the next two weeks, taking photos if possible, and determine if it has become a hazard to navigation. He plans to inform the owner by mail of whatever decision he makes regarding the boat.

Mr. Smith moved that the Harbormaster's report be accepted as stated, Mr. Rose seconded and the report was accepted unanimously.

7. Old Business:

a. Inner Breakwater:

The breakwater committee (Commissioners Tacy and MacKinnon) has met with representatives from the Town and Boro to begin the process of obtaining quotes for design work for reconstruction of the breakwater or town pier, as it was originally called. The committee will continue to investigate options.

b. Harbor Hydrographic survey:

Commissioner Diggs has obtained quotes from two companies to perform a survey of the harbor. He, Mr. Rose and Mr. Motherway will contract with one company to have the harbor depth surveyed. They will inquire about the cost of side a scan sonar survey of the West side of the harbor and contract that at the same time if it fits within the \$10,000.00 appropriated in the 2014 budget.

c. Tracking projects COP. Record keeping:

Chairman Spalding will email the latest list of projects to the Commissioners.

8. New Business:

Chairman Spalding has been in contact with NOAA Corps to inquire about establishing a new channel between Sandy Point and Napatree Point at the mouth of the Pawcatuck River. A channel there would eliminate the congested and frequently silting channel between Sandy Point and Stonington Village. He will continue to investigate that possibility.

9. Public Comment:

Mr. Zagol commented that he feels the new Slow No Wake buoys placed last season have been more effective in controlling traffic in the harbor. The Commission plans to add two additional SNW buoys to replace two more of the smaller ones.

10. Adjournment:

Mr. Tacy moved to adjourn, Mr. Motherway seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM

Treasurers Report:

Report Date: 3/10/2014	Plan	Jan	Feb	Mar	YTD	
Funds Generated:						
Balance Brought Forward:	8,704.04	8,704.04	8,026.35		8,704.04	8,704.04
Paid Moorings: Com/Pv/Pub:	128/259/4					128/259/4
Mooring Fees:	25,830.00				0.00	25,830.00
Miscellaneous Income:	20.00				0.00	20.00
Total Generated Funds:	34,554.04	8,704.04	8,026.35	0.00	8,704.04	34,554.04
Operating Expense:						
Mooring Admin:						
Mailings:	500.00		105.89		105.89	500.00
Telephone:	450.00				0.00	450.00
Computer Sftwr:	200.00				0.00	200.00
Miscellaneous:	100.00		914.50		914.50	1,000.00
Sub-Total:	1,250.00	0.00	1,020.39	0.00	1,020.39	2,160.00
Boat:						
Fuel & Oil:	300.00				0.00	300.00
Commissioning:	1,000.00	305.00			305.00	1,000.00
Storage:	750.00				0.00	750.00
Maintenance/Repairs:	750.00				0.00	750.00
Equipment:	250.00				0.00	250.00
Sub-Total:	3,050.00	305.00	0.00	0.00	305.00	3,050.00
Harbor Maintenance:						
Buoy: Commission/Haul/Store:	2,000.00	241.02			241.02	2,000.00
Misc Service/Locker Storage:	500.00				0.00	500.00
Signage:	100.00				0.00	100.00
Sub-Total:	2,600.00	241.02	0.00	0.00	241.02	2,600.00
Dock/Pumpout:						
Dock Eqpt./Maintenance:	500.00				0.00	500.00
Pumpout Eqpt./Maintenance:	0.00				0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous:	100.00				0.00	100.00
Sub-Total:	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
Administrative:						
Supplies:	0.00				0.00	0.00
Newsletter:	750.00					750.00
Professional Services:	0.00				0.00	0.00
Sub-Total:	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
Total Operating Expense:	8,250.00	546.02	1,020.39	0.00	1,566.41	9,150.00
Approved Projects/Capital						
New Boat Reserve:	5,000.00				0.00	5,000.00
New SNW Buoys (2):	2,000.00				0.00	2,000.00
Mooring Field Grid Alignment:	1,000.00				0.00	1,000.00
Town Pier/Breakwater Analysis:	500.00	131.67			131.67	500.00
Pumpout Pier Exit Design/Permit:	2,000.00				0.00	2,000.00
Hydrographic Survey Project:	10,000.00				0.00	10,000.00
Sonar - Robert G:	1,500.00				0.00	1,500.00
Radar - Robert G:	1,500.00				0.00	1,500.00
Total Project/Capital	23,500.00	131.67	0.00	0.00	131.67	23,500.00
Total Designated Funds	31,750.00	677.69	1,020.39	0.00	1,698.08	32,650.00
Undesignated Funds:	2,804.04	8,026.35	7,005.96	0.00	7,005.96	1,904.04
Notes:						
Petty Cash Advance - 300.00						
Harbor Boat Reserve - 640.00						