



Stonington Harbor Management Commission

August 11, 2014

Final Minutes (S. Crites, Acting Secretary)



1. Call to Order:

Chairman Spalding called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Attending were Chairman Spalding, Commissioners Diggs, MacKinnon, O'Neill, Johnstone, Tacy, Motherway, Rose, Crites, and Harbormaster Donch and Assistant Harbormaster Estabrooks. Absent: Commissioner Smith.

2. Minutes:

The Minutes of the July 14, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Acceptance as submitted was moved by Mr. Motherway, seconded by Mr. MacKinnon, and approved unanimously.

3. Correspondence:

A. In Jurisdiction: Osbrook Point (7 applications for dock extensions for #s 274, 278, 282, 286, 298, 302, and 306 Osbrook Point. Mr. Spalding had circulated all relevant documents prior to the meeting. A representative of Docko assured the commission that all neighbors of the parties agreed to the extensions. After discussion Mr. Crites moved approval, seconded by Mr. Tacy. Approval was unanimous.

B. Out of Jurisdiction: one COP received and not taken up.

4. Harbor Management Commission Annual Plan Review:

The public workshop portion of the Annual Plan Review called for by the Harbor Management Plan and Ordinance was conducted.

Prior to the meeting Commissioners had reviewed the current Stonington Harbor Management Plan adopted October 9, 2012 and amended as to the Private Mooring Fee increase on August 26, 2013. Most Commissioners provided written comments on areas which might be improved upon. Almost all the changes suggested were editorial in nature (grammar, sentence structure, spelling, etc.) They have been summarized and attached to these Minutes. This summary was reviewed.

Three changes to the Plan were discussed at length. The first pertained to the requirement that those on the Wait List reapply for their positions annually. This

provision had been waived in 2013 by the Harbormaster. It was decided to retain this provision, and enforce it in the future.

The second involved expanding the area of the harbor covered by Slow No Wake restrictions. Proponents felt that expansion to a line drawn between the Point and the east end of the inner breakwater would significantly improve safety in the harbor, especially for the children using the outer harbor for sailing lessons, kayaking, paddle boarding, etc.

Others felt that such an expansion was unnecessary and/or would make SNW enforcement even more unsatisfactory than it already is, and that we should focus on solving the enforcement problem first. Also, there is some question as to whether DEEP has mandated the current lines. Mr. MacKinnon will seek clarification.

Third, concern about swimming in the harbor was raised. The plan does not restrict swimming except in the channel. While safety is of some concern it was not enough to ban swimming, a popular harbor activity.

There was no public comment.

In the end it was agreed the changes and improvements identified in this year's review did not warrant calling a Town Meeting for the requisite approval. Mr. Crites moved they be recorded and held in abeyance until there is a substantive change needed. Mr. Johnstone seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

The Financial Report for July is attached. It was reviewed. Two items were discussed. As a result we will remove the Robert G Sonar from the Approved Projects/Capital, and Mr. Diggs will proceed with the Pumpout Pier Ext Design /Permit.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was moved by Mr. Tacy, seconded by Mr. O'Neill and approved unanimously.

6. Harbormaster's Report:

The Report for July is attached and was discussed.

Commissioners were provided with a "universal spreadsheet" to use when surveying the moorings each month. They also received an update of the current mooring data base. There is some question as to how current the data is, but Assistant Harbormaster Estabrooks is currently catching up all data entry, and expects to be finished before school starts and his time is curtailed.

The Harbormaster was asked to add the number of hours and/or days spent on the water to the items regularly reported. He agreed to do so.

Acceptance of the Report was moved by Mr. Tacy, seconded by Mr. O'Neill and approved unanimously.

7. Old Business:

A. Town of Stonington POCD: Nothing since acknowledgement our letter was received.

B. Rebuilding Old Stonington Town Wharf: Mr. Tacy reported that the money needed to survey the wharf should be available shortly, and that transfer of the title to the wharf from the Federal government to the state is likely. At that point title may move on to the town or borough, or remain with the state.

C. Tracking project COP and other permits: Record Keeping: All report satisfaction with the way it is working.

8. New Business:

There was no new business.

9. Public Comment:

There was no public comment

10. Adjournment:

Mr. Tacy moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Rose seconded and the motion approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Approved: J. Spalding Date: 8/17/2014
Jay Spalding - Chair SHMC

Attachments:

- A. Treasurer's Report:
- B. Harbormaster's Report
- C. Comments on Harbor Management Plan

Attachment A: treasurer's report

Report Date: 8/01/2014						
	Plan	May	Jun	Jul	YTD	Probable
Funds Generated:						
Balance Brought Forward:	8,704.04	30,190.96	21,515.96	19,986.96	8,704.04	8,704.04
Paid Moorings: Com/PW/Pub:	128/259/4	0/17/0	0/10/0	0/0/0	128/231/4	128/250/4
Moorings Fees:	25,830.00	850.00	500.00		24,430.00	25,380.00
Miscellaneous Income:	20.00				105.00	105.00
Total Generated Funds:	34,554.04	31,040.96	22,015.96	19,986.96	33,239.04	34,189.04
Operating Expense:						
Moorings Admin:						
Mailings:	500.00				105.89	500.00
Telephone:	450.00				0.00	450.00
Computer Sftwr:	200.00				0.00	200.00
Miscellaneous:	100.00				914.50	1,000.00
Sub-Total:	1,250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,020.39	2,150.00
Boat:						
Fuel & Oil:	300.00				0.00	300.00
Commissioning:	1,000.00		340.00		645.00	1,000.00
Storage:	750.00				0.00	750.00
Maintenance/Repairs:	750.00		387.00		387.00	750.00
Equipment:	250.00				0.00	250.00
Sub-Total:	3,050.00	0.00	727.00	0.00	1,032.00	3,050.00
Harbor Maintenance:						
Buoy: Commission/Haul/Store:	2,000.00	420.00		1,213.77	1,874.79	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	420.00	0.00	1,213.77	1,874.79	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			1,267.85	1,267.85	1,300.00
Professional Services:	0.00				0.00	0.00
Sub-Total:	750.00	0.00	0.00	1,267.85	1,267.85	1,300.00
Total Operating Expense:	8,250.00	420.00	727.00	2,481.62	5,195.03	9,700.00
Approved Projects/Capital						
New Boat Reserve:	5,000.00				0.00	5,000.00
New SNW Buoys (2):	2,000.00		1,292.00		1,292.00	1,300.00
Moorings Field Grid Alignment:	1,000.00	105.00		313.00	418.00	1,000.00
Town Pier/Breakwater Analysis:	500.00				131.67	500.00
Pumpout Pier ExtDesign/Permit:	2,000.00				0.00	2,000.00
Hydrographic Survey Project:	10,000.00	9,000.00			9,000.00	9,000.00
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	9,105.00	1,292.00	313.00	10,841.67	21,800.00
Total Designated Funds	31,750.00	9,525.00	2,019.00	2,794.62	16,036.70	31,500.00
Undesignated Funds:	2,804.04	21,515.96	19,996.96	17,202.34	17,202.34	2,689.04
Notes:						
Petty Cash Advance - 300.00	August:	USPO - 71				
Harbor Boat Reserve - 640.00		USPO - 50				

Attachment B: Harbormaster's report

Harbormaster Report
August 11, 2014

New Mooring permits issued: 2 Moorings being given up (this month): 1
New Mooring assignments offered: 4
Deposits to SHMC account since last report \$ 0 2014 YTD = \$25,050

I was without a computer for approx 2 weeks, end of July through early August, so I apologize for any missed email communications.

Dredging around Sandy Point appears to be continuing to move along. August 12 is the deadline for bid submissions. Three companies have contacted me asking various questions to help in their bid process.

All "Slow, No Wake" and all available "Transient Anchorage" buoys have been placed.

Dodson's has placed the four red and green "inner channel" markers.

Only four fishing vessels took part in this year's Blessing of the Fleet procession to place the wreath for fishermen lost at sea.

The bicentennial of the battle of Stonington on water events were a big success. The "Mystic Whaler" made five, one hour cruises plus a dinner cruise out of Stonington Harbor that were all fully booked.

Robert G

In water. No problems / concerns.

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Douch
Stonington Harbormaster

Attachment C: HM Plan comments:

Summary of e-mailed comments, in the author's own words, on the Plan Review:

1. Bruce McKinnon: "I have reviewed the HM plan and Ordinance. I would prefer a SNW zone from Stonington Point to the west breakwater. I was not involved in the original discussion establishing one from the inner breakwater to Can #7 then to the west breakwater, so perhaps there was good reason to allow high speeds that far into the harbor. Perhaps we could discuss this at the August meeting."
2. Paul O'Neill: "Review of Stonington Harbor Management Plan. Effective date Nov 3, 2012
 1. The font is not consistent throughout the document and word wraps need to be corrected in many locations, see pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 14, etc.
 2. Section 1.3 should describe the recent hydrographic survey.
 3. Section 3.2, paragraph 3, line 4 - should ... "extended" .. be ... "extensive" ...?
 4. Section 3.7, paragraph 7, the former Atwood property is actually on the southwest shore (not the southeast).
 5. Section 4.2.2, Recommendation B., the repair of the outer breakwater is complete.
 6. Art. 4 Sec. 5E, the fees need to be updated.
 7. Annex C, paragraph 2, line 3, ... "expose" ... should it be ... "exposure" ...?
 8. The charts do not reproduce well, especially the notes.Recommend that the above comments be reviewed and incorporated at the next normal revision of the plan, as they are all very minor in nature."
3. Peter Tarcy: "I have no revisions of the existing Harbor Management Plan to propose -- so this is my response to the review & respond requirement."
4. Dave Motherway: "No substantive comments DLM"
5. Jess Diggs: "I have read and tend to agree with Charles (see below): Revise mooring fees, update charts, show the new mooring field "grid" chart and revise the mooring ball designations figure to reflect the new numbering scheme."
6. Jay Spalding: "I suggest the following change to allow sufficient time to reassign mooring locations that are not renewed.
Art. 4 Sec. 5
~~Mooring Permit Renewal Process. Mooring permits are valid for a period not to exceed one year. All mooring permits expire on December 31st. Applicants must complete the renewal process by March 31st. The Harbormaster, in January-October of each year, shall send a renewal application to persons who are eligible for mooring permit renewal for the upcoming season.~~"
7. Rod Johnstone: "No suggested changes."
8. Sherm Crites: "Other than the clean up those items ID'd by Charles I am ok with the document as is."
9. Caleb Rose: "I have reviewed the plan and believe that it is currently sufficient."

10. Ed Smith:

11. Eric Donch:

12. Charles Estabrooks: Charles did an excellent and complete review of the entire document. His major concerns are: 1) developing a consistent description of the various "breakwaters", 2) revising the mooring fees to reflect what was approved last year, 3) inclusion of the "Wharfing Out Plan" as a reference, applicable and enforceable document, 4) using a consistent description of a "mooring holder", and 5) updating the charts to make them current and readable.