

Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Minutes
June 11,2007

The Stonington Harbor Management Commission held a regular meeting on Monday, June 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Stonington Police Headquarters. Committee members present were Chairman Peter Vermilya, George Kenyon, Jack Gorby, Rose Raffo, Ed Smith, Rod Johnstone, Alan Banister, William Geary, and William Abt. Harbormaster Eric Donch was also in attendance.

Chairman Vermilya called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Kenyon motioned to accept the minutes of the May 14, 2007 meeting and Mr. Geary seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Vermilya received a letter on behalf of the Stonington Water Street Associates requesting a change in the permitted use of the east side of their eastern-most dock, a letter from the DEP stating approval for a dock off Osbrook Point, and a letter from the DEP with approval of pier, etc., in Old Mystic.

This month Chairman Vermilya paid one bill in the amount of \$312.08 from PMW Marine for general tune-up and repositioning of the motor lift holes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Abt reported \$7,140.00 in total revenues, \$564.00 in expenditures, bringing the total after expenditures to \$6,575.00. The total cash available is \$15,958.00, \$100.00 in the harbor boat reserve, and \$8,130.00 in the dock fund. Mr. Abt also stated he had rounded off these amounts.

Mr. Kenyon motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and Mr. Johnstone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

Harbormaster Eric Donch reported no new mooring permits had been issued, and one addition to the waiting list, bringing the total to 209. No moorings were being given up this month, and no new mooring assignments were offered. There were no deposits to the SHMC account since the last report. The 2007 balance remained at \$6960.00. To

date, Mr. Donch had received 266 applications and approved 242. Some applications were still missing paperwork. The news of assistant Harbormaster Michael Lennon's unexpected death was reported. Mr. Donch also reported that Fred Blackall's vessel, "Marmion" sank at the dock on Monday June 4, 2007 in Stonington harbor. The Stonington Borough Fire Dept., Stonington Police, DEP and USCG responded. The DEP oil boom was deployed around the vessel, but later removed to allow the gasoline to dissipate and evaporate, helped by the out going tide. The DEP is planning to eliminate the spill response trailer currently stored at the Stonington Highway Dept. garage. The DEP has offered to let the town keep the gear if we can find a storage location. The Stonington Borough Fire Dept. is investigating getting a trailer and gear from the DEP. Chairman Vermilya was notified by Harbormaster Donch that the VHF radio speaker on the ROBERT G. was not working, and gave permission for the purchase of new VHF. The new Icom radio cost \$152.00 and has been installed. The old radio will be shipped out for repair if cost effective.

There was no further report on the cushions for the boat.

Mr. Donch prepared the charts showing the positions for the Transient Anchorage Bouys. With the charts in hand, Mr. Gorby will draft a proposal to be approved by the Commission at the next meeting.

Finally, Mr. Donch reported he had received a letter from the DEP Clean Vessel Act stating money was available for Marine Sewage Disposal Facilities.

Mr. Kenyon motioned to accept the Harbormaster's Report as presented and Mr. Johnstone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Vermilya reported that the position of Deputy Harbormaster would be advertised. Mr. Smith suggested the salary (\$350.00/annum) for the position should be included in the job description. In a conversation with Maryanne Boord, Director of Boards and Commissions for Governor Rell, Chairman Vermilya learned the Commission must follow procedure as laid out by statute in order to replace the Deputy Harbormaster. The Commission should send a letter to the Governor with three nominees, from which she will pick one, usually the one recommended by the Commission. Since Mr. Donch's term had expired in 2005, his name could be included in the three names, with a recommendation that he remain Harbormaster.

Ms. Linder, secretary for the Commission, stated she had attended the FOI Meeting on June 6, 2007. She learned Agendas were set up differently for Regular Meetings and Special Meetings. While Regular Meeting Agendas could contain general titles such as Other Business, Special Meeting Agendas needed to be more specific. Only items listed in a Special Meeting agenda could be addressed at a Special Meeting. With a vote, other items could be discussed at a regular meeting, even though they are not listed on the Agenda.

Ed Smith has the SHMC database up and running. All mooring inspection data as well as the approved minutes from each meeting will be kept on the computer.

The Sandy Point Beacon is not currently in compliance with the permit. Although Avalonia owns Sandy Point, a stipulation in the permit holds the Harbormaster responsible for the Beacon. At the present time, the Beacon is not visible from both sides, and may need replacing. A subcommittee including Chairman Vermilya, Ed Smith, and Eric Donch agreed to inspect the beacon.

Mr. Johnstone motioned to give the subcommittee the power to make a decision and move forward with their plan to bring the beacon into compliance and Mr. Kenyon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The Pumpout Boat Feasibility Committee reported telephone conversations with Westerly's facility, who stated they were capable of servicing Stonington Harbor. Mr. Gorby and Mr. Geary will continue to try and meet with Westerly, face to face, to develop a plan for a specific schedule for the boat to be available in the harbor.

NEW BUSINESS

The Stonington Water Street Associates are requesting a Certificate of Permission from the DEP to change the permitted use of the east side of their eastern-most docks from "transient" to "seasonal". Transient use states a boat can not tie up for more than 24 hours, where seasonal allows a boat to tie up for more than 24 hours. The Commission stated it has no objection to seasonal use of the dock.

Mr. Kenyon motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Johnstone seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Vermilya, Chairman