

Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting Draft Minutes
April 9, 2007

The Stonington Harbor Management Commission held a regular meeting on Monday, April 9, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Stonington Police Headquarters. Committee members present were Chairman Peter Vermilya, George Kenyon, Jack Gorby, Arthur Medeiros, 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 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Gorby motioned to move the presentation on CT DEP pumpout boat related activities by Rick Huntley to the top of the agenda and Mr. Banister seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Frederick Huntley, Clean Vessel Act Grant Program Coordinator for the CT DEP, distributed a fact sheet explaining the Connecticut Clean Vessel Act Program. He then outlined progress made toward designating the Connecticut and Rhode Island coastlines as "No Discharge Areas". Mr. Huntley stated that Federal grant money was available. The grants would fund 75% of the cost of the purchase price and annual operating expenses of a pumpout boat, as well as certain installation and support facility costs. When asked, Mr. Huntley outlined the steps for applying for a grant. Initially, a study of the demand for pumpout services would be done to see if a pumpout boat was justified. Once the need is established, the type of boat would be chosen. Mr. Huntley stated the Town would be the Grantee and would own the boat. The Grant would cover 75% of the cost, and the town would be responsible for the other 25%. Once the application is filed, the process could take between 6 to 9 months. Mr. Huntley stated a boat could cost seventy or eighty thousand dollars. For the 2006 season, Westerly's grant for operation and maintenance was \$33,009.75.

Chairman Vermilya thanked both Mr. Huntley for his presentation on behalf of the Commission, and Bill Geary, Jack Gorby and Eric Donch for arranging the visit. Commission members agreed there was still information needed and a subcommittee including Jack Gorby, Bill Geary, Eric Donch, and Alan Banister would continue to look into the project.

MINUTES:

Mr. Johnstone motioned to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2007 meeting as written, and Mr. Gorby seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Vermilya stated he had received a copy of the letter from Mr. Geary to Jack Gorby regarding Mr. Huntley upcoming presentation, and three out-of-area CT DEP communications.

Two bills were paid this month: \$129.30 to Docko, Inc for a Notice of Application ad for the Harbormaster dock in the New London Day, and \$104.79 to Ed Smith for Costs incurred printing the 2007 Permits.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

None

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT:

Mr. Donch stated no New Mooring permits issued, the total names on the waiting list remained at 204, no moorings were given up this month and no new mooring assignments were offered. Deposits to the SHMC totaled \$1,400.00 this month. To date, 259 applications had been received and 143 were approved. Mr. Donch sought advice from the Commission on a method for making littoral mooring holders send in paperwork by the deadline. No new ideas were forthcoming, and Commission members agreed Mr. Donch was doing whatever he could. Registrations are again the biggest holdup for complete mooring renewal packages this year, as mooring holders are not reading the cover letter sent with renewals. Another mailing to mooring holders was discussed, but no decision was reached. Mr. Donch announced the Blessing of the Fleet would take place on July 21-22 this year, and thanked Rose Raffo for second checking the renewal applications. Mr. Donch continues to research replacement cushions for the Robert G. Repairs on the boat have not started, but Mr. Donch expects to launch the boat in May.

Mr. Banister motioned to accept the report and Mr. Abt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

2007 Budget

The budget was received and discussed at the last meeting, and nothing new was presented.

Management Plan re-write status

Ed Smith stated the Plan was ready for review. Commission members discussed ways to fund the new dock, agreeing that raising mooring fees just to cover the cost was not a sound plan. Chairman Vermilya stated the Commission should look into alternative funds.

Transient Anchorage area buoy status

Mr. Gorby presented 2 types of buoys to Commission members and discussed the cost, as well as how many buoys should be considered. Although four buoys were originally requested, the Commission agreed 6 buoys were needed. Mr. Gorby asked Mr. Donch for a chart showing the placement of the buoys, information needed for the application. Selectman Bill Brown's signature would also be required on the application. Chairman Vermilya said that he would continue his efforts to find what constituted the legal requirements for the establishment of the Transient Anchorage. He asked Rose Raffo and George Kenyon to assist him.

There was no New Business, Other Business or Public Comment.

Mr. Abt motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Gorby seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9: 00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Peter Vermilya, Chairman

