

Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Minutes
May 14, 2007

The Stonington Harbor Management Commission held a regular meeting on Monday, May 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Stonington Police Headquarters. Committee members present were Chairman Peter Vermilya, George Kenyon, Jack Gorby, Rose Raffo, 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.

MINUTES:

Mr. Geary motioned to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2007 meeting as written and Mr. Banister seconded. Motion carried unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE:

In-area: Chairman Vermilya received 3 letters from the first Selectman's office: The first was a copy of an ordinance passed by the town establishing uniform, Town-wide rules for what constitutes a quorum. Six members would need to be seated for Stonington Harbor Management Commission business to take place. If a member recused himself or herself, leaving only five members present, business could not be conducted.

A second letter announced minutes would be posted on the town website. Commission members questioned if draft minutes or approved minutes would be posted on the website. Ms. Linder, secretary for the Commission, stated she was in contact with Deb Harvey in the Selectman's office, and would ask for guidance.

The third letter notified Commission members that a workshop was being offered concerning the Freedom of Information Act on June 4, 2007 if anyone wanted to attend.

Bills paid: Chairman Vermilya stated no bills were paid this month, and two bills from PMW Marine were pending; one for \$163.99 for a prop and hub and a second for \$226.00, for winterization and an oil change for the Robert G.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Abt stated the month's income was \$1400.00. The total was \$5420.00; expenditures were \$565.00, with the total after expenses, \$4855.00. Cash available was \$14,238.00, \$100.00 in the boat reserve and \$7900.00 cash reserve for the dock.

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT:

Mr. Donch reported no new mooring permits were issued, 6 names were added to the waiting list bringing the total to 208, and 2 moorings were given up this month. Deposits to the SHMC account, since the last report, was \$1720.00 for a 2007 total of \$6960.00.

262 applications had been received to date and 235 were approved.

Mr. Donch met with Bill Furgueson, lead sailing instructor from the Stonington Harbor Yacht Club, and Kate Careb, the coordinator for Special Olympics CT. Two racing courses were set for the Special Olympics. Course one, for JY 15's or 420's would be inside the area formed by Skippers Dock and the small eastern breakwater. A second course for J22s or Highlanders, would be South of the small eastern breakwater, running east of the channel. Because the course would cut into the channel, Mr. Donch will submit an application for a Marine Event with the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard will put out informational broadcasts, asking people to stay clear of the area during the races. Mr. Donch stated he would ask Captain Desmond if he would schedule the Stonington Police Boat to be present for the races. The Westerly Ambulance Boat would be present, as well as the Stonington Harbormaster's Boat. The question of liability was raised concerning the presence of the Special Olympics' EMT on board the Harbormaster's boat. Mr. Donch will research the insurance coverage before the Commission grants permission. The DEP may also bring a boat from their safety division.

Chairman Vermilya will attend a workshop hosted by the Avalonia Land Conservancy on Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at the Stonington Community Center, and contact a member of Avalonia regarding their "Slow – No Wake" signage. Presently, the sign is not in compliance with the existing DEP permit.

Mr. Donch stated the Robert G was launched on May 12 and was operating satisfactorily. The fiberglass repairs had been completed and the hull had been painted. Mr. Donch's research for replacement cushions for the leaning post resulted in two estimates. Custom cushions were quoted at \$300.00 for both cushions. The second cost was for cushions special ordered for \$166.32 each. These cushions were non-returnable, and Mr. Donch was not 100% satisfied that they would fit properly.

Mr. Geary motioned to order the custom cushions for a price not to exceed \$300.00 for both and Mr. Banister seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

The Committee created to study the feasibility for a pump out boat had no progress to report.

The Management Plan re-write is pending further research into alternative funding for the Harbormaster dock.

Mr. Gorby stated he has the forms for the Transient Anchorage Area Buoys, but is in need of coordinates to be supplied by the Harbormaster before he can draft a proposal. Mr. Banister raised two questions regarding the buoys. After doing some research, he asked why 6 buoys were needed when the DEP Boating Safety talks about 4. Also, Mr. Banister asked who would handle maintenance of the buoys, wondering if one of the local marinas would consider volunteering their services. Chairman Vermilya asked Mr. Banister to talk with Mr. Gorby about his concerns.

The Commission is waiting for a form for mooring inspections to be completed by Ed Smith. Mr. Donch was adamant that SHMC should have their own form, to make sure all the information they require for the inspections would be complete.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Vermilya raised the question of what information should be on the SHMC computer, but stated he would wait until Mr. Smith was present for the discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Abt motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Kenyon seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Vermilya, Chairman

SHMC TO DO LIST – December 11, 2006

- 1) Eric Donch – prepare charts for Commission members designating possible new deep water and shallow mooring spaces.
- 2) Eric Donch – get estimate from Dodson's for fiberglass work on Robert G.
- 3) Peter Vermilya – revise SHMC donation letter.