

Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting
March 10, 2008
7:00 PM
Police Headquarters Public Meeting Room
Draft Minutes

The Stonington Harbor Management Commission held a meeting on March 10, 2008 at the Stonington Police Station at 7:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were: Harbormaster Eric Donch, Rod Johnstone, Bill Geary, Jack Gorby, Alan Banister, William Abt, and Peter Vermilya presiding.

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

Minutes:

Mr. Johnstone motioned to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2008 meeting as written and Mr. Geary seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Corrrespondence:

Chairman Vermilya stated he received out of jurisdiction correspondence from 29 Chippechaug Trail, Mason's Island. In Jurisdiction correspondence was received from the CT DEP addressing Stonington Harbor Yacht Club request to a change in use to an existing permit, which would allow them to use the east side of their docks for seasonal use instead of transient use for the 2008 season. The Commission had no objection to the request. A proposal by David Williams, 24 Water Street, Stonington to install davits and tie-off piles to an existing dock also received no objection from the Commission.

No bills were paid this month, and no bills are outstanding.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Abt stated the Commission spent \$450.00 this month. Cash available is \$11,632.59; cash reserve of the Robert G is \$100.00 and the cash reserve for the new dock is \$8,320.00. Mr. Abt also presented the Commission with a preliminary Budget for 2008 for their consideration.

Harbormaster Report:

Mr. Donch stated no new mooring permits were issued and no additions made to the waiting list. Two moorings were given up, no new mooring assignments were offered, and no deposits made to the account. To date, 165 applications have been received but have not been processed. Mr. Donch stated he would meet with Ed Smith in the coming week to perform updates on the database before the renewals can be processed.

Mr. Donch, Chairman Vermilya, and others met with First Selectman Habarek to discuss the Harbormaster's dock. The Town appears to have been uninformed about the financing of the dock, believing they were paying for the dock and did not receive all information concerning the pumpout station.

Mr. Donch also met with Christian McGugan, Gwenmor Marine to discuss methods of trimming the cost of the proposed dock. Eliminating some ladders and tie-off pilings, which could be added at a later date, would cut down the initial cost.

Mr. Gorby motioned to accept the Harbormaster's Report and Mr. Johnstone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mooring Inspection compliance:

A letter to those ten mooring holders who have not responded to the required inspections is being drafted. These mooring holders will be given a final date for compliance, or loss of their moorings.

Town Dock Overnight tie-up Ordinance extension:

Chairman Vermilya will attend a meeting scheduled for March 26, 2008 to acquire more information on the Ordinance.

Dodson Dock Expansion:

Chairman Vermilya and Bill Geary met with Bob Snyder on March 5, 2008 to discuss their proposal for dock expansion. Mr. Snyder explained the need for the expansion and stated there were no alternative plans. The Commission discussed what limits could be set for docks, and agreed that the Commission should join the Connecticut Harbor Commission. Membership in this state Commission would give the SHMC more access to information and the ability to learn how other towns deal with issues such as dock expansion.

Stonington Harbor Yacht Club Report:

The Commission has not received the severe storm plan from the SHYC. Mr. Gorby will make inquiries and report back to the Commission.

Assistant Harbormaster Search:

Some Commission members stated they had received positive inquiries about the position being offered for an Assistant Harbormaster. The Commission decided to set up April 16, 2008 at the Borough Hall for the interview process. Mr. Geary stated he would book the date at the Borough Hall for 7:00 p.m.

Winter Stake removal:

The Commission discussed a tour of the harbor to inspect moorings and discern how many abandoned moorings might be out there. A June inspection with Steve Kingsland from Dodson's Boatyard and Ian Heatherington from Don's Dock was agreed on. Alan Banister and Bill Geary

agreed to form a subcommittee to draft a letter for any mooring holders with abandoned moorings.

Secretary position:

Chairman Vermilya spoke with Mary McCrea on March 10, 2008 about the Secretarial position needed for the Commission. Ms. Linder will compose a job description for a newspaper ad.

Pumpout Boat Facility and Fixed Dock:

Chairman Vermilya met with Town Officials on February 27, 2008. In order to build the proposed dock and the pumpout facility, the town would require the Commission to come up with \$25,000.00 to begin the project. The town has no room in the budget for the dock and pumpout facility. With the grant for the facility, the Commission would be reimbursed for a portion of the \$25,000.00. After discussion, the Commission decided they could go ahead with their plan to build the original dock, and not be involved with a pumpout facility at this time.

Text Change proposed for Stonington Borough “Water Related Use” Zoning Regulations:

Rod Johnstone brought to the Commissions attention that a text change proposed for the Borough zoning regulations would allow condominiums to be built on waterfront properties now zoned for water related use. After discussion, the Commission voted its opposition to the proposed change and authorized Vermilya and Johnstone to meet with Carol Syzmanski of the CT to draft a letter stating this opposition to be addressed to the Borough Planning and Zoning Commission.

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