

Town of Stonington, CT  
Stonington Harbor Management Commission  
Special Meeting  
April 7, 2008  
7:00 PM  
Borough Hall, Church St., Stonington, CT

Stonington Harbor Management Commission held a Special Meeting on April 7, 2008 at the Borough Hall. Present for the meeting were: Rose Raffo, William Abt, Bill Geary, Alan Banister, Jack Gorby, Rod Johnstone, Ed Smith, and Peter Vermilya presiding. 2008

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Vermilya called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and read a letter of resignation from Arthur Medeiros into the record. Mr. Medeiros stated the Blessing of the Fleet would be held on July 26 & 27.

**MINUTES:**

Mr. Geary motioned to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2008 meeting as written and Mr. Banister seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Chairman Vermilya received Out-of-Jurisdiction correspondence concerning the following: Approval of the Mason's Island Marina request, tentative approval of Shaffer's Marina request, and Approval of the Davis request. In-Jurisdiction correspondence was received concerning tentative approval of the Shellfish Commission to place aquaculture gear off Barn Island. Mr. Banister stated the Shellfish Commission was going to try seeding for scallops. Also received were: Certificate of Permission for Stonington Boro to repair sea walls, Approval of the Flashes request to erect a new fixed dock off Wamphassuc Point, Approval of the McCagg request to erect a new fixed dock off of Wamphassuc Point, A finding by the DEP that Amtrac's plan to replace the two fixed bridges in Stonington Harbor is consistent with CT's Coastal Management Program, a copy of the Application by the SHYC to place floating dock facilities for sailing instruction off the Bindloss dock, and tentative approval of Ozycz "Shorefront Modification" request.

**Bills Paid/Outstanding;**

No bills were paid out, and there were no outstanding bills.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Abt stated the Commission received \$6020.00 in mooring fees, \$225.00 paid out to the Secretary for the first quarter, and \$230.00 for the Harbormaster. Cash available is \$17,203.00 with a cash reserve of \$100.00 for the Robert G, and \$8,420.00 for the dock.

#### **HARBORMASTER'S REPORT:**

Eric Donch was not able to attend the meeting. Chairman Vermilya stated one letter of application had been received for the position of Deputy Harbormaster. The Commission would interview the candidate at a Special Meeting on April 16, 2008 at the Borough Hall.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Pumpout Boat Facility and Fixed Dock:**

Chairman Vermilya stated he would like the Commission to take the responsibility for the new dock and pumpout station. The town owns the permit for the dock, but the Commission would be responsible for maintenance. The DEP will reimburse the Commission at a rate of 75% for pumpout related expenses. The Commission's boat would occupy one side of the dock, and the pumpout boat would use pumpout off-loading facilities located on the other side. The DEP has stated no other boats would be allowed to tie up on the side on which the pumpout facilities are located. The dock will be covered under the Town's insurance policy for liability and property losses. The Commission will write the rules for using the dock. Three bids are required by the town for the construction of the dock, although Chairman Vermilya would like the town to waive the requirement and accept two bids. Commission members discussed this plan, and some of the concerns included: What are the Commission's financial liabilities, would there be some guarantee that the pumpout boat would be available for a reasonable amount of time, how would repairs be handled, should the Commission contract a plumber. Chairman Vermilya asked the Commission to give him the authorization to go ahead with negotiations with the town.

*Mr. Geary motioned to allow Chairman Vermilya to move forward with negotiations and Mr. Gorby seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

##### **Borough Planning and Zoning:**

A letter was drafted expressing the SHMC's opinion concerning a proposed text amendment to the zoning language governing two parcels of land in Stonington Borough currently zoned for marine use.

*Mr. Gorby motioned to approve the letter to be sent to the Borough Planning and Zoning Commission and Mr. Banister seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Dodson Dock Expansion:**

The DEP shares the Commission's concerns for the proposed expansion of docks at Dodson's Boatyard, and would like the boatyard to present a ten year plan. Chairman Vermilya will further research the criteria for the expansion of docks.

**Stonington Harbor Yacht Club Report:**

The Commission will ask Barnaby Blatch, from the Stonington Harbor Yacht Club to attend the Special Meeting on April 16, 2008 to present a report.

Mr. Banister distributed a draft of the letter to be sent out to mooring holders in non compliance. The letter was edited by the Commission.

**Winter Stake Removal:**

Chairman Vermilya will ask Town Attorney Thomas Londregan when the Commission can legally take charge of unused moorings. Mr. Banister will arrange a "cruise of the harbor" to learn how many unused moorings there are. Mr. Banister also stated he can get GIS training with the Shellfish Commission.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Gorby motioned to adjourn and Mr. Smith seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.