

Town of Stonington, CT  
Stonington Harbor Management Commission  
Special Meeting  
April 16, 2008  
7:00 PM  
Stonington Borough Hall  
Minutes

Stonington Harbor Management Commission held a Special Meeting on April 16, 2008 at the Borough Hall. Present for the meeting were: Harbormaster Eric Donch, Commission members Rose Raffo, George Kenyon, William Abt, Bill Geary, Alan Banister, Jack Gorby, Rod Johnstone, and Peter Vermilya presiding.

Chairman Vermilya called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the Commission for a motion to bring the interviews for Deputy Harbormaster to the top of the agenda.

Mr. Kenyon motioned to bring the interviews for Deputy Harbormaster to the top of the agenda and Mr. Johnstone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Harbormaster Donch presented the duties of the position, and the requirements to the applicants. Two interviews were held, and the Commission moved into executive session for discussion.

After the Executive Session, Mr. Banister motioned to bring the proposed text change to Borough Zoning "Marine use" language to the next item on the agenda and Mr. Geary seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Attending the meeting was Michael Blair, applicant for the text change. Chairman Vermilya asked Mr. Blair if he would like to speak on the matter. Mr. Blair stated he had read in the agenda that the text change would be discussed at the meeting, and it had not been on the March Agenda. Mr. Blair stated he had not been allowed to present his argument for the text change to the Commission. He further stated he would like the chance to present his side, and that the letter written to the Borough Zoning Commission by the SHMC contained erroneous material. Chairman Vermilya offered Mr. Blair the chance to be heard, and Mr. Blair asked to present his position at the May meeting, and that the Commission also withdraw their letter to the Borough Zoning Commission. Commission members agreed there had been a breakdown in communication on both sides, but the letter received on April 14, 2008 by the Borough would stand. Mr. Blair is scheduled to present his position at the May 12, 2008 meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission.

**Minutes:**

Mr. Banister motioned to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2008 meeting as written and Mr. Abt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Correspondence:****Out of Jurisdiction:**

Chairman Vermilya stated he had received notice of approval for new piers and floats for the Mason's Island Yacht Club.

**In Jurisdiction:**

None

**Bills Paid/Outstanding:**

None

**Treasurers Report:**

The report had not changed since the April 7, 2008 meeting.

**Harbormaster's Report:**

The Harbormaster's Report had nothing new since the April 7, 2008 meeting.

**Old Business:**

Mooring Inspection compliance:

No letters had been sent out as of this date.

Town Dock Overnight tie-up Ordinance extension:

The Commission has not received any new correspondence from the town.

Dodson dock expansion:

No further action at this time.

Stonington Harbor Yacht Club Report:

Barnaby Blatch will address storm measures at the May 12, 2008 meeting.

Winter stake removal:

Chairman Vermilya sent an e-mail letter to Town Attorney Thomas Londregan asking under what conditions the Commission could take legal possession of moorings that are not in compliance with the Harbor Management Plan, and is waiting for a reply. Mr. Banister met with representatives from both Dodson's Boatyard, and Don's Dock. Both agreed they were willing to remove moorings of those in noncompliance if the mooring holder's had received notification. All parties are interested in seeing the mooring locations in use and the waiting list shortened. Both Steve, from Dodson's, and Ian, from Don's Dock, agreed that a July tour of the harbor, when the

moorings are in use, would be beneficial, and offered to provide a list of moorings they know are not in compliance.

Mr. Banister stated he had attended training for GIS, and said the program was very complex. He will be taking follow-up training.

**New Business:**

Not allowed

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ingrid Federson asked the Commission if it had any plans to expand the number of commercial moorings and, if so, would such requests be placed at the end of the Private Mooring waiting list. Chairman Vermilya said the Commission had no plans, at present, to expand the number of commercial moorings and, if it did, such requests would not be added to the end of the Private Mooring waiting list.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Johnstone motioned to adjourn and Mr. Abt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.