

Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting
June 9 2008
7:00 PM
Stonington Police Headquarters
Final Minutes

A regular Meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on June 9, 2008 at the Stonington Police Station at 7:00 p.m. Attending the meeting were: Rose Raffo, Rod Johnstone, William Abt, George Kenyon, Jack Gorby, Bill Geary, Chair Peter Vermilya, Harbormaster Eric Donch, and Deputy Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks.

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

MINUTES of May 12, 2008:

Mr. Donch stated his name was missing from those listed as being in attendance at the May 12, 2008 meeting. He also questioned whether the Shellfish Commission had put together a plan to identify moorings or shellfish beds. Finally, Mr. Donch suggested a correction on the author of the letter for non-compliant mooring holders, stating the letter had been drafted by Alan Banister with a paragraph added by Town Attorney Thomas Londregan. Mr. Geary motioned to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2008 meeting, with revisions, and Mr. Kenyon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Out of Jurisdiction: Two letters were received by Chairman Vermilya, one from Ram Point, Mystic, and a second. From Quiambaug Cove, Mystic.

In Jurisdiction: Chairman Vermilya received notice from the DEP of 1) the approval of a Shorefront Modification for Thom Ozycz, Osbrook Point, and 2) a Certificate of Permission for David Williams to install new boat davits on his dock at 24 Water Street, Stonington.

Bills Paid/Outstanding:

One bill was paid for \$225.00 for Secretarial Service to Patti Linder

TREASURER'S REPORT:

None

HARBORMASTER'S REPORT:

Harbormaster Eric Donch stated two new mooring permits were issued, and that there were no new additions to the Waiting List, which remains at 209. One mooring was being given up this month, and three new mooring assignments are being offered. Deposits to the SHMC account since the last report equaled \$1060.00 with a YTD of \$7400.00.

Harbormaster Donch asked the Commission for their approval to install a mooring on the North side of the channel in the Sandy Point area to be used by him when he was monitoring traffic. Mr. Kenyon stated he had an extra mooring that he would donate, and Mr. Donch stated he would ask for the approval of the Shellfish Commission.

Mr. Gorby motioned to approve the need for the mooring and Mr. Kenyon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gorby motioned to approve \$100.00 for any necessary gear and Mr. Geary seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Donch also asked the Commission to consider a flat 80% of the total fee to cover his phone bill each month. The 80% figure is based on an estimate of the Harbor related phone calls Mr. Donch has made or received over the last three years.

Mr. Gorby motioned to approve an 80% payment of the total bill each month and Mr. Johnstone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposed Text Change to Borough Zoning "Marine use" language:

Chairman Vermilya raised for discussion the three points of concern listed in a letter from Robinson & Cole, lawyers for Ingrid Fedderesen, pertaining to the proposed Text Change to Borough Zoning Marine Use Language. The first stated that the Commission did not motion to add the item to "New Business" on the 4/10 meeting agenda before speaking on it. Although the Commission agreed unanimously to discuss the matter, no motion had been made. Second, the letter suggested a conflict of interest with at least one Commission member. The Commission agreed there was no conflict of interest. Third, the letter stated the Commission had arrived at a decision, without hearing from the applicant. Chairman Vermilya stated they were welcome to present their case, but the letter from the Commission would not be withdrawn, which the applicant had suggested.

Mr. Johnstone motioned to refer the letter from Robinson & Cole to the Town Attorney for review and ask for advice, and Mr. Abt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Harbormaster dock and Pumpout boat facility:

Chairman Vermilya stated the Board of Finance tabled the Commission's request for a bid waiver. Chairman Vermilya stated he would meet with the Harbormaster to draft a new description of the dock and work up a Rules for Use Document to submit to the town.

Dodson dock expansion/ wharfing out policies:

Chairman Vermilya handed out a packet of information from Dodson's Boatyard concerning their plans for new working dock extensions. He asked Commission members to review the information so that they could discuss the project at the next meeting.

Winter stake removal/mooring locations (GIS)

Harbormaster Donch stated no registered letters had gone out yet, and that although the deadline for removal of winter stakes was May 31, 2008, many stakes were still in place. He would contact both Dodson's Boatyard, and Don's Dock to inquire when the stakes marking moorings under their care might be removed.

On Saturday, June 14, 2008 Mr. Donch will host a cruise of the harbor for any Commission members who would care to join him beforehand at the boat at 8:00am.

Deputy Harbormaster/ Harbormaster duty sharing:

Because of his expertise with computers, Mr. Estabrooks will handle all Commission business that pertains to the Commission's digital records including the mooring database. Discussion included finding a central site for all data and using the Commission's laptop as a back up.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Gorby stated he would follow up with the Commissions request to the DEP for transient Buoy marker permission.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nick Dahl asked the Commission if his name was still on the waiting list for a mooring. Harbormaster Donch is providing him with an answer.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Gorby motioned to adjourn and Mr. Kenyon seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.