

Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting
August 11, 2008
7:00 PM
Stonington Police Headquarters
Final Minutes

A regular Meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on August 11, 2008 at the Stonington Police Station at 7:00 p.m. Attending the meeting were: Rose York, George Kenyon, Jack Gorby, Alan Banister, Chair Peter Vermilya, Harbormaster Eric Donch, and Deputy Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks.

1. Chairman Vermilya called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. **MINUTES** of July 14, 2008

The draft minutes for the July 14, 2008 meeting were accepted without change.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Vermilya reported the following correspondence:

Out of Jurisdiction

Lamberts Cove – next to Don’s Dock
Masons Island

In Jurisdiction

Letter from Jodi Rell reappointing Eric Donch Harbormaster until 6/30/2011

Letter received from Attorney Tom Londregan re. the Robinson Conway letter about the Mohegan/Fedderson proposal to rewrite the Borough zoning rules for land zoned “marine use”. Summary: When there is a need to vote a member of the Commission can’t be prevented from voting due to possible conflict of interest. Furthermore, it is not necessary to invite parties to the meeting and a vote can be taken without interested parties present.

Letter sent to Borough P&Z Commission about hearing on August 12 on a request by the Mohegan Indians, as landlords, to alter the building now being used by the SHYC as a youth sailing facility by rebuilding an existing landing and set of stairs, adding a second exit with a landing and stairs, and erecting boat racks on the north side of the building.

Phone call from Bob Snyder of Dodson Boat Yard stating the Commission would receive a ten year plan for our review before the Sept. 8, 2008 meeting.

Application: Eric Bam of Hancox St. for dock modification to rail and stairs.

Application: Ingrid Feddersen, 31 Front Street for retention and maintenance of existing dock.

Bills Paid/Outstanding;

\$191.52 paid to Eric Donch, Harbormaster, for June telephone and July gas for boat.
\$67.50 to Attorney T. Londregan for work on letter of mooring non-compliance.
\$175.51 to Port Supply for spring commissioning of the Robert G.

4. TREASURER’S REPORT

Mr. Abt was absent. There was no treasurer’s report.
\$1400.00 was deposited in the Dock Fund from 5/8 to 7/14, 2008.

5. HARBORMASTER REPORT

Report is appended to these Minutes. Motion to accept by Jack Gorby, seconded by George Kenyon and was unanimously accepted.
An updated list of Non-Compliant moorings was reviewed and is also appended.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Harbormaster dock and Pumpout boat facility Town meeting 7/21/08

George Sylvester of the Town of Stonington requested a meeting of those parties that use the floating dock located on what is referred to as the Third Parcel to try to clarify the responsibilities of the users. The floating dock is leased from the Town to SNEFLA (Southern New England Fisherman and Lobsterman Association). Mr. Sylvester would like the Commissions that use the dock to get written permission from the Waterfront Commission specifying the type of use they make of the dock. Mr. Sylvester will put some wording together for the Commissions and will be in touch to formalize the agreements among users.

B. Winter stake removal/mooring locations (GIS)

Alan Banister described the results of the tour of the harbor by the parties who maintain most of the moorings in the harbor on July 15, 2008. In summary, moorings that were not in compliance were listed and the Harbormaster addressed the latest status of those moorings in his report – list as of July is appended. An additional goal of the tour was to identify areas in the harbor that would be available for new moorings both deep water (6' or greater) or shallow water moorings. There are potentially 18 to 19 additional deep water moorings and 36 shallow water moorings. A motion was made to lift the current moratorium on new numbers for moorings. After discussion, that motion was withdrawn until all the issues surrounding new moorings are aired. A committee was formed composed of Chairman Vermilya; Eric Donch, the harbormaster; and Alan Banister to investigate the issues and to report to the Commission at the next meeting.

C. Transient Anchorage area

Eric Donch said there will be a meeting with Mike Payton from DEP Boating Safety Division and a boat ride this Wednesday at 1:30 pm at the Town Dock. Attendees will take Mr. Payton to the transient anchorage area in the harbor where the buoys are to be deployed. If permission is given as a result of that trip, Jack Gorby has authority to order 4 marker buoys with appropriate wording on them and the mooring tackle for each buoy. Money is available in the general fund. Jack Gorby made the motion to purchase the buoys; George Kenyon seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

D. Deputy Harbormaster/ Harbormaster duty sharing/Status of the SHMC web site
See the Harbormaster report

E. Wharfing out: A motion was made by George Kenyon and seconded by Jack Gorby to consider the issues of wharfing out into the harbor. The motion was carried unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT:

A. Ingrid Feddersen of 31 Front Street, Stonington expressed concern about the swell that moves through the west side of the harbor and is pronounced because of the abrupt rise of the bottom west of the north fishing dock. It was acknowledged by the Harbormaster and commission members as new moorings are considered for that area.

B. Richard Sattler asked the Harbormaster how long do individuals who are on the waiting list have to respond when they have been offered moorings. Eric Donch said he tries to wrap up an offering in two weeks to a month but often times when people are not local it could take months. Thus, there is no set time limit on when “offered moorings” have to be finalized.

C. Richard Sattler also asked if a mooring is assigned can the assignee ask to be relocated. Eric Donch said yes that is possible but it depends on the availability of space and this juggling is often done in the spring time during the renewal period.

D. Ingrid Feddersen was surprised that the two yacht clubs in the harbor are not allowed to have moorings to give out to guests who are cruising. Peter Vermilya stated that mooring turnover is a primary goal of the SHMC. Because they are incorporated, yacht clubs would never turn over those moorings thus further stagnating an already slow new mooring assignment process. Ingrid Feddersen thought the merchants in town would benefit if yacht clubs could have guest moorings. Eric Donch stated they are not commercial entities and the current Plan calls for moorings to go to individuals or commercial parties in the harbor

E. Richard Sattler brought up his concern from the last meeting that Bob Snyder had denied him public access to the harbor by not allowing him on Dodson property. Peter Vermilya stated that according to the town attorney the SHMCommission has no roll in this controversy.

F. Richard Sattler asked what permitting was necessary to run another launch in the harbor. Eric Donch recommended Mr. Sattler contact DEP to establish a launch permit. Jack Gorby suggested he get in touch with The Office of Long Island Sound Projects.

9. Action Items:

A. Peter Vermilya will provide Charles Estabrook with a current electronic copy of the Harbor Management Plan.

B. Charles Estabrook will put together a blank mooring application form as a PDF document and make that available on-line.

C. Peter Vermilya will convene the Mooring Subcommittee to review the issues surrounding establishment of new moorings that were suggested in the Item B above under Old Business.

10. Adjournment:

George Kenyon moved, and Alan Banister seconded, a motion to adjourn at 8:55 pm. The motion was carried unanimously.

Next meeting on September 8, 2008

Submitted by Alan Banister, acting secretary for August.