

Town of Stonington, CT  
Stonington Harbor Management Commission  
Special Meeting  
October 20, 2009  
7:00 PM  
Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall

A special meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at the Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall. In attendance were Chairman Peter Vermilya, Harbormaster Eric Donch, Deputy Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks, Jack Gorby, George Kenyon, Alan Banister, Jean Dixon, Rodney Johnstone and Jesse Diggs. William Abt and Ed Smith were not in attendance.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07PM by Chairman Vermilya. A motion to move the Stonington Harbor Aerial Photography presentation to the front of the meeting was made, seconded and passed unanimously. The minutes of this presentation are recorded under Old Business.

**Minutes**

Mr. Gorby motioned to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2009, meeting as written and Mr. Kenyon seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Correspondence**

Chairman Vermilya reported the following correspondence:

- A) Out of Jurisdiction
  - 1) Masons Island – new fixed pier and boat lift
  - 2) Mystic River – new pier and float
  - 3) Pawcatuck River – stone seawall modifications
- B) In Jurisdiction
  - 1) Letter from James M. Hicks requesting a hearing to appeal being dropped from the Mooring Wait List. He had not received the mooring update letter and it was determined that the letter had gone to a former address. Mr. Hicks will be advised to complete the mooring update form to restore his active status.

Mssrs. Johnstone and Gorby will attempt to contact persons whose letter had been returned to the SHMC as undeliverable to advise them of the need to update the commission with their mooring information via the mooring update form. The form will be accessed on the commission website and is required for wait list reinstatement.

- 2) Letter from William B. Morris who is concerned that his mooring, Q44, has not been reassigned after 3 seasons. Mr. Morris also noted specific winter sticks and unmarked buoys in the harbor as of early July. Harbormaster Donch will follow up with Mr. Morris regarding his concerns.
- 3) E-Mail to Jack Gorby from person whose name has not appeared on the mooring wait list after submitting application. HM Donch stated that the data base is updated periodically, but not immediately with new information; he will confirm status of this person.

C) Bills Paid/Outstanding  
None

### **Treasurer's Report**

No Treasurer's Report was submitted.

### **Harbormaster's Report**

The Harbormaster's Report, October 20, 2009, was presented by Harbormaster Donch (Attachment A).

1. The commission recommended engaging a third party to handle the seasonal removal/storage of the anchorage area buoys. Mr. Diggs motioned to authorize Mr. Gorby to negotiate the removal of the six surface floats and their replacement with winter sticks at a cost not to exceed \$600 for the six floats including their spring reinstallation. Mr. Johnstone seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
2. HM Donch will contact the Wadawanuck Club to arrange for keeping the ROBERT G at their location for more seasonal protection until the boat is hauled in November.
3. The commission discussed winter storage of Robert G and the benefits/issues associated with indoor protected storage vs. outdoor exposure with tarpaulin protection. Mr. Gorby motioned to authorize HM Donch to store ROBERT G at the Velvet Mill from November, 2009, to April, 2010, at a cost not to exceed \$75/month and Mr. Diggs seconded the motion. Mr. Vermilya, Mr. Gorby, Mr. Kenyon, Ms. Dixon, Mr. Johnstone and Mr. Diggs voted for the motion. Voting against was Mr. Banister
4. Mr. Johnstone motioned to accept the Harbormaster Report, Mr. Gorby seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## Old Business

### A) Mooring Count/Projected 2010 Income

1. HM Donch reported 283 mooring applications including 3 commercial (marina) applications and 280 resident applications.

#### MOORING REVENUE SUMMARY:

##### Projected mooring income:

\$5600 – 280 resident applications @ \$20  
\$2280 - Dodson's  
\$ 220 - Don's Dock  
\$ 100 - Cardinal Cove  
\$8200 - Total

##### Actual income to date:

\$7380 – town record  
\$ 100 - unresolved item  
\$7480

##### Unrealized income:

\$ 720 – represents 36 moorings (11 incomplete applications; 25 “no response”)

2. HM Donch will report further on detail and resolution of the 36 outstanding moorings at the next meeting.

### B) SHMC Borough Ordinance

- 1) Mr. Gorby will confirm ordinance approval for SHMC.

### C) Dodson Temporary Dinghy Docks

- 1) Chairman Vermilya will correspond with Dodson's to advise that the docks must be permitted through the DEP.

### D) New and Reassigned Mooring Locations

- 1) Nothing was reported

### E) Aerial Photography of Stonington Harbor

- 1) Thomas L. Millette, Ph.D. conducted a presentation of Research Aviation and Mapping Science, LLC environmental imaging services. Various application possibilities utilizing aerial imagery which can be orthorectified, geocoded and registered to a map coordinate system were discussed as they might support Stonington Harbor management functions including disaster management and mooring allocation/tracking.

Mssrs. Diggs, Banister and Donch will develop a requirements proposal for Research Aviation to further explore the product viability for SHMC needs.

### F) No-Wake Buoy Proposal

- 1) The commission discussed the no-wake buoy project and acknowledged that the buoys would not address the problem of

excessive speed in Stonington Harbor which can only be addressed through state legislation to enact enforceable regulations.

- 2) The no-wake buoy installations are intended to educate and encourage boaters to slow down in the waters and, themselves, are enforceable under limited conditions (distance from structure, vessel).
- 3) In advance of initiating a plan to work with other interested parties to enact speed control legislation at the state level, Mr. Banister will investigate other precedents in legislative activity in this area.
- 4) Mr. Gorby will initiate the permit application process with DEP for the buoys.
- 5) Chairman Vermilya motioned to authorize \$600 to the private fund established to purchase the buoys, Mr. Gorby seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

No new business was reported.

### **Public Comment**

Inquiry about the origin of the Dodson temporary dinghy issue.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 upon a motion by Chairman Vermilya, seconded by Mr. Banister and approved unanimously.

Submitted by Jean D. Dixon

Attachment A

**Harbormaster Report**

October 20, 2009

New Mooring permits issued: 0  
Additions to Waiting List: 0 Total: 144  
Mooring being given up (this month): 0  
New Mooring assignments offered: 0  
Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$ 160 (2009 YTD = \$ 7380)  
(Includes \$100 donation)

Met Cardi Corporation project manager Alfred Nazareth. Alfred is the project manager for the Amtrack bridge replacements in the harbor. The newest plan will have both bridges replaced during one 50ish hour corridor track outage. It may be coordinated with the Niantic bridge replacement. Preparation work will begin this winter. We can expect to see work barges in the harbor this winter. The project is currently scheduled to be completed by February 2011. Cardi Corp is renting space in the velvet mill for office space and as a staging area.

It is time to remove the "Anchorage Area" buoys from the harbor. I will need some help removing them. They need to be removed before the "Robert G" is hauled for the season. If the anchors are easily hauled then they will be removed also.

Robert G

The boat was moved to an empty slip at Dodson Boat yard on 13 October to get it off the cement dock it is usually on during the impending north winds. I will be moving it back to the south side of the fishing dock.

The boat will be hauled once the anchorage buoys are removed and we perform a stability test with the fire nozzle. I expect it to be hauled by 14 November.

The boat will be taken to PMW Marine for winterizing.

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Donch  
Stonington Harbormaster