

FINAL
Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting
November 9, 2009
7:00 PM
Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall

The regular meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on Monday, November 9, 2009 at the Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall. In attendance were Chairman Peter Vermilya, Harbormaster Eric Donch, Deputy Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks, Jack Gorby, William Abt, George Kenyon, Alan Banister, Jean Dixon, Rodney Johnstone and Jesse Diggs. Ed Smith was not in attendance.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman Vermilya. The Stonington Harbor Yacht Club Sailing Foundation presentation was moved to the front of the meeting. The minutes of this presentation are recorded under Old Business.

Minutes

Mr. Banister motioned to accept the minutes of the October 20, 2009, meeting as amended. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Correspondence

Chairman Vermilya reported the following correspondence:

- A) Out of Jurisdiction
 1. Lords Point – 14 Oak Street – wall repair and new ramp float
 2. Quiambaug Cove – 218 Cove Road – new ramp and float
- B) In Jurisdiction
 1. Wadawanuck Club – 196 Water Street – removal of 4 existing storage buildings and construction of a 1,857 sq. ft. single story structure to be used for sailing instruction and equipment storage. SHMC concurs.
 2. Letter from Craig Appel seeking restoration to the Wait List; HM Donch will investigate.
 3. Request from Cynthia Ladwig, Town Clerk, to submit the SHMC regular meeting schedule for 2010.
- C) Bills Paid/Outstanding
 1. Resolution of invoice payment status from Finish Line Signs for “Slow No Wake” signs.

2. \$75.00 to Peter Vermilya for purchase of three \$25.00 gift certificates to be given to three divers who assisted with a sunken yacht in Stonington Harbor in March.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report, November 9, 2009, was presented by Treasurer Abt (Attachment A) to include September, October and YTD account detail.

Harbormaster's Report

The Harbormaster's Report, November 9, 2009, was presented by Harbormaster Donch (will be Attachment B).

1. The ROBERT G will be hauled on November 16, 2009 and will be serviced for winter storage at PMW.
2. Winter storage for ROBERT G has been secured at the Velvet Mill at a \$75.00 monthly fee.
3. Mr. Abt motioned to accept the Harbormaster Report, Mr. Kenyon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- A) Mooring Count/Projected 2010 Income
 1. Harbormaster Donch will confirm resolution of the \$100 unresolved entry as the Cardinal Cove fee and further report on the status of the 36 outstanding mooring fees at the next meeting.
- B) SHMC Borough Ordinance
 1. Mr. Gorby reported that resolution is in progress.
- C) Dodson Temporary Dinghy Docks
 1. A letter will be sent this week from the SHMC to Dodson's advising that the docks must be permitted through the DEP.
- D) New and Reassigned Mooring Locations
 - 1) Included in the Harbormaster Report
- E) Aerial Photography of Stonington Harbor
 - 1) Mr. Diggs presented the findings of the Aerial Photography sub committee (Attachment C). A SHMC requirements letter has been submitted to Research Aviation and Mapping Science to evaluate the viability of their aerial survey product as a tool to support Stonington Harbor mooring management.
 2. Discussion ensued about obtaining mooring latitude/longitude data to support mooring management/record maintenance as required by the SHMC Management Plan and to support recovery of the mooring field in the event of a disaster. Commercial inspection of the moorings (required every 3 years) represents a regularly scheduled opportunity to capture mooring lat/long coordinates for use by the SHMC and the inspection process was therefore determined to be the best means of acquiring the data.

3. Mr. Abt motioned to require commercial inspectors to take latitude/longitudinal coordinates at the time of mooring inspection for use by the SHMC. Mr. Banister seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- F) No-Wake Buoy Proposal/Speed Control State Legislation
1. Mr. Banister determined in speaking with the CT DEP boating division that state legislation was unnecessary to enforce a harbor-wide no-wake policy unless bounded by another town or state. HM Donch stated however that the Stonington Police Department will not enforce a regulation that is not backed by state legislation.
 2. After some discussion, the commission declined to proceed with further action toward implementing a harborwide no-wake policy.
 3. The commission advocated purchase of an additional (sixth) no-wake buoy for placement in the high-traffic area off the north Town commercial dock to further public awareness of harbor no wake regulations. Mr. Abt motioned to fund a sixth no-wake buoy to be placed off the north commercial dock. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
 4. Mr. Gorby will initiate the DEP permitting process for the No-Wake buoys with Mr. Banister and Ms. Dixon.
- G) Transient Mooring Winter Sticks
1. In addition to funds approved for removal/storage of the transient area buoys, Mr. Gorby reported that funds were required to purchase the replacement winter sticks. The motion to authorize Mr. Gorby to proceed with their purchase was made, seconded and passed unanimously.
- H) Stonington Harbor Yacht Club Sailing Foundation & Water-Link Tour
1. M. "Spike" Lobdell presented an overview of the Stonington Harbor Yacht Club Sailing Foundation Program (Attachment D). Mr. Lobdell discussed the foundation's goals, programs, development plans and history as part of the foundation community information outreach. The sailing program's use of the harbor and future development with the Mohegan property was discussed.
 2. Mr. Lobdell reviewed the status of the "Water-Link – Watch Hill/Stonington" venture with the Ocean House and Gansett boat tours (Attachment E) with the commission. The commission discussed the water tour's impact on the harbor and community and suggested alternative docking points. Mr. Lobdell will continue to work with HM Donch on locating an appropriate docking point.

New Business

No new business was reported.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 upon a motion by Mr. Kenyon. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Submitted by Jean D. Dixon

Attachment A

Treasurer's Report
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
November 9, 2009

	September	October	YTD
Mooring Fees Received	0.00	160.00	7480.00
Expenditures :			
Reproduction & Printing			184.38
Equipment & Support	368.64*	322.38**	
Harbormaster Expenses			2335.96
Total Expenditures	368.64	322.38	5685.27
Cash Available to Harbor Commission			18318.58
Cash Reserved for Boat			200.00***
Cash reserved for new dock			
9840.00			

*Finish Line signs

**ASAP software

***Requires written request from Chairman to Finance to shift \$200.00 to another account.

Attachment B
Harbormaster Report

Attachment C

Aerial Harbor Survey
Subcommittee Notes
Tues. October 27, 2009

Attending:

Jesse Diggs, Eric Donch, Alan Banister

The following are the topics discussed as we follow up the presentation to the Commission by Thomas Millett. These are the ideas of what we would like to have as a result of the survey Dr. Millett would do.

1. Mooring Location of all moorings in Stonington Harbor.
Need: There are two main reasons for these locations –
 - a. Large storm preparedness: In case of a hurricane or other large storm which might move moorings, knowing exactly where these mushroom anchors currently are will allow us to return them to their proper position after a storm.
 - b. Ability to add new moorings based on “watch circles” of current moorings and boats.

Conditions of aerial survey:

- a. We think it best to do the survey during the summer when the maximum number of boats are on their moorings.
- b. We'd like to do the survey within 24 hours of a blow of 20 kts. or more, and we'd like the survey done under the same wind direction of the 20kts. blow.
- c. There was a thought to do two aerial surveys to be able to justify more accurately the mooring location.
- d. When the survey is taken both wind and tidal conditions should be noted due to the variation of the effect on power boats vs. sail boats and on large vs. small boats and their position relative to the mushroom anchor.

Other needs and discussion:

- a. We'd like the 2.5 cm. resolution that Dr. Millett discussed so mooring buoys in the harbor are clearly identifiable.
- b. There was lengthy discussion of how to locate the mushroom anchor based on the aerial view of the mooring ball. We know the length of the chain and pennants attached to each anchor. A close approximation of the location of the anchor from the mooring buoy would be to assume the chain forms the hypotenuse of a triangle and the depth would form one leg of the triangle which would allow Pythagoreans theorem to find the distance from the buoy. For example, if a mooring has 30 feet of chain

and is in 8 feet of water. The horizontal distance from the buoy to right over the anchor is 28.9 feet. This is a close approximation because the hypotenuse of the triangle is not a straight line. Thus, the buoy is ~ 30feet or the chain length from the mushroom. If we could get within 3 feet of the exact position of the anchor, that would be satisfactory resolution.

- c. We want to know how the surveyed information of latitude and longitude of each mooring can be married to the existing information in the data base which contains name of owner, mooring tackle, date of last inspection, etc. This is currently in an Access data base program.
- d. Also, we currently have latitude and longitude on about 30% of the moorings which Don's Dock takes with a hand held WASS active GPS when they pull the mooring up off the bottom for inspection. We'd like the survey results to give us the lat/long of these moorings first to validate the process.
- e. We talked about a follow up aerial survey be done every 6 years to coincide with the mooring inspection to insure the moorings were still in the correct place.

2. Depth Survey of the Harbor – hydrographic survey.

Need: This would be helpful in assignment of boat draft to water depth so shallow draft boats are in the shallow parts of the harbor.

We weren't sure that the technology exists to do this, but Dr. Millett indicated an interest in developing "new technologies" if they would help the Commission. We understand the air/water interface is problematic for aerial hydrograph plots.

3. Survey of docks in the harbor with an ability to determine length.

Need: This would be helpful to access expansion of existing docks, the impact on navigation in the harbor and the impact on existing moorings. It would also help during the application process of new docks in the harbor.

Attachment D

'SHYC Sailing Foundaton

Discussion with Harbor Management Commission – November 9th 2009

I. Goal: To Create a World Class Learning Opportunity for All

Created to fulfill the community outreach goal of Stonington Harbor Yacht Club, the SHYC Sailing Foundation is an independently governed non-profit corporation.

Foundation's mission is to advance the community's understanding and enjoyment of the sea. Sailing, marine biology and environmental studies programs are catalysts for building teamwork and self-reliance and teach respect and responsibility for the sea. Need-based financial aid enables programs to be accessible to all, regardless of an individual's means.

II. Year to Date Highlights

- **Participation: Program up 40% from prior year**
 - 290 children(will exceed 300 by year end)
 - 65% not SHYC members
 - Estimated 75% live outside the Borough
 - Total Units taught 446 children
 - Sailing 167 units (up 25.5%)
 - Marine Biology 279 units (up 63.2%)
 - Adult sailing program 27
 - Introduce fall sailing and marine biology programs
 - Dramatically increased caliber of instructors
 - New boats added to the quality of the experience
- **Financial Aid: Offered for approximately 15% of our programs**
 - 40 course units provided on a full scholarship (9.0% of total units)
 - 42 course units provided at a discount because of financial need
 - We expect to receive a grant of \$30,000 to support scholarships
- **Outreach Programs: Making Sailing Available**
 - Sponsor of Special Olympics in Sailing
 - Sponsor training of Sea Scouts
 - Host Williams and Stonington High School Sailing Programs
 - In discussions with the Fresh Air Fund for a 2010 program
- **Racing: Tremendous Improvement**
 - 3rd in ECSA team race championships

- 3rd in Atlantic Coast 420 Midget Championship (Best performance in Eastern CT)
- Champion's Fund made grants of \$8,000 to support sailing at the highest levels
- **Facilities: Key Competitive Asset**
 - Goal to operate year round
 - Deep water access
 - Foundation owns all boats
 - Improving off water instruction/office space

III. Mohegan Property

- **Option to Purchase the facility unit September 2010**
 - Evaluating optimal configuration and use of buildings as owner
 - Potential to develop areas' only dry sail space with a hoist
- **Articulating Vision and Fund Raising Critical**

Attachment E

‘Water-Link’ - Watch Hill/Stonington

Discussion with Harbor Management Commission – November 9th 2009

I. What is ‘Water Link’

- Create a value added water based attraction providing a link between Watch Hill and Borough
- Ocean House is catalyst: Contracted Gansett; a very attractive 49 Passenger Boat that currently operates tours out of Newport
- Schedule to include water tours from WH to Borough (allowing for shopping – dining), private charter possibilities, sunset cocktail cruises, evening hours
- Winter months to finalize business model and all logistics

II. Implications for Stonington

- Interesting vehicle to promote tourist traffic and use of harbor
- Can idea be explored without making a long term investment in infrastructure?
- Near term issue: Docking point
 - Key criteria
 - o Assess to Borough
 - o Parking
 - o Floating Dock
 - o Water Based Logistics

III. Alternative Docking Points (Very Preliminary)

Wayland’s Wharf

- Borough Approval needed
- Limited Parking Available
- Construction required
- Signage Potential
- Great Location on Water Street
- Fixed dock
- Not handicap accessible
- Limited turn around area for vessel
- Might have a problem at low tide

Town Dock

- Borough, Town, Harbor Management Approval needed
- Floating dock
- Deep water but in a busy area
- Significant Parking Available
- Signage Potential
- Good Location in Boro, not great for Water Street
- Busier location with fishing boats
- Not handicap accessible

Sailing Center

- Foundation Board approval needed
- Signage potential
- No parking
- Deep water, calm out of way
- Good location in Boro, not great for Water Street
- Ramp needs to be built
- Floating dock

Dodsons

- Approval needed from Dodsons
- Out of way location for tourists
- Would support Dog Watch and new ice cream store (open 2010)
- Significant Parking available
- Floating dock
- Not handicap accessible, but does have a ramp
- Long walk to outer float

Fedderson

- Approval needed (proposal to turn property into marina)
- Needs infrastructure build out
- Difficult water logistics
- Ample parking
- Not close to town

Skipper's Dock

- Approval needed from Bill Griffin
- Fixed dock not ideal
- Good location in Boro, not great on Water Street
- No parking/ potential for allocated parking but not likely
- Backlash from other restaurants
- Easiest location for management purposes

IV. Next Steps

- Gain consensus on most appropriate location
- Work with owner of dock to address operational issues
- Finalize economics of docking
- Work with Ocean House/Gansett on overall logistics