

Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting
March 09, 2009
7:00 PM
Stonington Police Headquarters

The Regular Meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on Monday, March 9, 2009 at the Stonington Police Headquarters. In attendance were Bill Abt, Chairman Peter Vermilya, Alan Banister, Jack Gorby, Jessie Diggs, Deputy Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks, Ed Smith and Jean Dixon.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM by Chairman Vermilya.

Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2009, meeting as written was approved, seconded and carried.

Correspondence

Chairman Vermilya reported the following correspondence:

Out of Jurisdiction

- None

In Jurisdiction:

- A letter was received from William Morris, the owner of mooring #44, who is giving up the mooring for reassignment and wishes to sell his mooring gear to the new owner of #44. Harbormaster Donch will coordinate the transaction with Mr. Morris. Compatibility of the gear with the mooring is not an issue as inspection was completed this year.
- Correspondence from the Stonington Harbor Yacht Club stated that the club would no longer be managing the docks associated with Stonington Commons. Clearview Investment Management Company will assume the management function.

Bills Paid/Outstanding

- \$194.30 paid to Harbormaster Donch
- \$64.18 paid to Asst. Harbormaster Estabrooks

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Abt reported:

- Revenue: \$0.00
- Cash Available: \$15,741.31
- Harbor Boat Cash Reserve: \$100.00
- Harbormaster Dock Cash Reserve: \$10,300.00

Treasurer Abt submitted the preliminary 2009 Stonington Harbor Management Commission Budget for consideration. After some discussion about mooring fees, fuel expenses and transient anchorage marker expense, the motion to approve the 2009 Stonington Harbor Management Commission Budget as amended was approved, seconded and carried. The 2009 budget is attached

Summary Projections for 2009:

- Revenue: \$8,180
- Expenses: \$6,835
- Reserves: \$12,000 Est..

Harbormaster's Report

The Harbormaster's Report, March 9, 2009, was presented by Assistant Harbormaster Estabrooks and is attached.

Discussion ensued about transitioning the Stonington Commons dock complex to new management. It was agreed that a meeting would be held with Clearview Investment Management Company to understand and coordinate mutual interests in the management of these docks. Chairman Vermilya will assemble historical information with Jack Gorby in advance of that meeting.

The Harbormaster's office will investigate expenses associated with the removal of the sunken vessel mentioned in his report and will explore the potential roles of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Stonington Waterfront Management Commission in the removal.

Old Business

New Mooring Locations

- Alan Banister presented a list of Non-compliant Moorings to further resolve the issue of questionable moorings discussed at last meeting.
- The Commission acknowledged that multiple databases of mooring locations (SHMC, Don's Dock and Dodson's) contribute to the problem of validating moorings. Asst. Harbormaster Estabrooks will survey the databases to identify discrepancies between the lists which potentially may be explained by jurisdictional considerations.

- The motion to impose a 14 day period for responding to an offer for a mooring to a person on the waiting list was deferred to the next meeting when Harbormaster Donch could present procedural input.

Wharfing Out Policy

- Jesse Diggs presented a comprehensive report of the sub-committee's findings on the issues and guidelines for the SHMC Wharfing Out Policy. The policy will establish regulations for wharfing out in the waters under SHMC jurisdiction in compliance with the Stonington Harbor Management Plan's goals to promote and regulate safe use of the Stonington harbor waters. The policy will define the criteria against which wharfing out requests will be evaluated.
- The sub-committee will format its findings as a policy for review and approval at the April meeting.
- A motion was made to rescind the motion approved at the December meeting which adopted the Connecticut DEP policy for private wharfing out as the SHMC policy for private docks. The proposed all-inclusive SHMC policy will meet all government statutes, Connecticut DEP and Army Corp of Engineers requirements in its wharfing out considerations for private and commercial docks.

The motion was approved, seconded and carried.

Computer

- An electronic copy of the Stonington Harbor Management Plan at the Stonington website has been located. That copy will be proofed against the approved version to ensure that the correct copy is at the website.

Other

- Jack Gorby reported that the refloated dock moored in the center of the harbor as a result of a recent storm may belong to the Stonington Harbor Yacht Club. Its status will be determined with Dodson's who secured it after the storm.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned 9:12 PM.

Attachment A
Harbormaster Report
March 9, 2009

New Mooring permits issued: 0
Additions to Waiting List: 0 Total: 213
Mooring being given up (this month): 0
New Mooring assignments offered: 0
Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$ 0 (2009 YTD = \$ 0)

Applications received to date: 159 (57%)
Applications approved to date: 0

Stonington Harbor Yacht Club will not be managing the docks at Stonington Commons this summer. I met with Steve Semkowicz today (3-9-9) to discuss how he will be managing the docks. Expressed my concern that "public slips" need to be filled, preferably by the existing slip holders. He has a list of existing holders and ensured me he hopes to have as seamless a turnover as possible. Steve will be looking for a local person to help in the management of the docks as his office is in Stamford.

There is a sunken vessel between the South fishing pier and the dockominium docks. According to people on the fishing dock, it has been there for some time. I will be contacting divers I know to try to get someone to mark it with a buoy. It currently is sitting with it's bow 2-3ft under water. We will need to have the vessel removed. Once I get a diver to survey exactly what it is, we can decide on removal method.

Robert G.:

Expect to get boat to Don's Dock to paint bottom in April.

Boat is currently in my yard. Will remain there until time to launch. (April)

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Donch
Stonington Harbormaster

Attachment B
SHMC Sub-Committee Initial Report of Wharfing Out Policy

Sub-committee established at February 9, 2009 meeting of SHMC. Initial Meeting held on March 2, 2009, from 7:00pm – 8:30pm:

<u>Sub-Committee Members</u>	<u>Present at Meeting</u>
Ed Smith	Present
Bill Geary	Absent
Rod Johnstone	Present
Jesse Diggs	Present

The sub-committee discussed the issues and developed the following guidelines:

1. Purpose of Wharfing Out Policy: To develop a Wharfing Out policy that provides regulations regarding the initial installation of, modifications to, repairs of, and/or expansion of any and all pre-existing, currently existing, or future wharfs, docks and other such private or commercial structures, whether permanent, seasonal, floating and/or fixed, that protrude into the waters under the jurisdiction of the SHMC.
2. Responsibilities of SHMC (from Management Plan): Wharfing Out policy must comply with goals of SHMP:

1.2 Goals

The goals of the Harbor Management Commission are as follows:

Goal 1. - To establish and maintain policies, guidelines and strategies to be used by the Borough of Stonington, the Town of Stonington, and State and Federal Agencies for guiding decisions affecting development and uses of the navigable waters within the jurisdiction of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission.

Goal 2. - To promote public awareness of the water-related facilities and activities available within the navigable waters within the jurisdiction of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission

Goal 3. - To regulate use of the Harbor and the navigable waters within the jurisdiction of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission in a manner that assures safe, orderly and efficient use of the water and the waterfront.

Goal 4. - To protect the natural and man-made resources of Stonington Harbor.

3. SHMC Considerations Regarding any “Wharfing Out” Request:

3.1 Navigation Considerations:

a. Does not in any way displace or affect direct safe navigation between existing shore based facilities, or moorings, to and from the entrance to the harbor channel, the entrance to Stonington Harbor, or other safe navigational lanes with the jurisdiction of the SHMC.

b. Does not in any way take up more harbor mooring acreage “space” than the SHMC deems necessary to accomplish the goals as stated in the Stonington Harbor Management Plan.

c. Does not in any way affect the safe and continued use of existing moorings and structures within the Harbor, or the jurisdiction of the SHMC.

3.2 Public Access Considerations:

a. Provides for improved or increased free safe direct public access to the Harbor, or the waterways within the jurisdiction of the SHMC.

b. Provides improved or increased free benefits to Connecticut residents, either directly or indirectly.

3. Future Use of Harbor:

a. Does not adversely affect or hinder the future configuration of the harbor, or the waterways within the jurisdiction of the SHMC, which may require an improved mooring grid within the Harbor or the waterways within the jurisdiction of the SHMC.

4. Other Considerations:

a. Must meet the approval of neighbors that may be affected by such Wharfing Out.

b. Must meet all Federal, State and local statutes at every level, DEP and Army Corps of Engineers requirements and regulations, including responsible engineering guidelines for wharfing out.

STONINGTON HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION 2009 BUDGET

<u>ITEM DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
REVENUE						
Misc	\$40	\$47	\$25	\$5	\$20	\$0
Mooring Fees	\$8,280	\$8,281	\$8,175	\$8,080	\$7,440	\$8,180
Total Revenue	\$8,320	\$8,328	\$8,200	\$8,085	\$7,460	\$8,180
EXPENSES						
Personnel	\$735	\$975	\$825	\$600	\$525	\$675
Professional Services						
Engineering Docko	\$0	\$2,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$1,579	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Legal	\$400	\$125	\$0	\$108	\$135	\$200
SubTotal Professional	\$1,979	\$2,825	\$0	\$108	\$135	\$200
Advertisements	\$185	\$241	\$0	\$837	\$0	\$0
Harbor Master						
Port Supply Gas	N/A	\$613	\$125	\$256	\$175	\$500
Computer Asst	N/A	\$222	\$152	\$105	\$0	\$0
PMW Maintenance	N/A	\$0	\$2,249	\$308	\$230	\$0
Donch Direct Exp	N/A	\$1,127	\$1,412	\$846	\$1,964	\$1,025
Cushions	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$0
SubTotal Harbor Mast	\$3,705	\$1,962	\$3,938	\$1,815	\$2,369	\$1,525
Miscellaneous	\$152	\$200	\$0	\$161	\$0	\$0
Equipment						
Boat	\$0	\$603	\$1,515	\$1,814	\$0	\$1,285
Computer	\$0	\$0	\$1,629	\$0	\$0	\$150
Trans. Anchor. Markers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
SubTotal Equipment	\$0	\$603	\$3,144	\$1,814	\$0	\$4,435
SubTotal Regular Exp.	\$6,756	\$6,806	\$7,907	\$5,335	\$3,029	\$6,835
New Dock	\$0	\$0	\$2,963	\$500	\$0	\$0
Total Expenses	\$6,756	\$6,806	\$10,870	\$5,835	\$3,029	\$6,835
CASH ON HAND					\$15,741	\$17,686
RESERVED						
Boat				\$100	\$100	\$0
New Dock				\$8,320	\$10,300	Est \$12,000

3/9/2009

