

Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Special Meeting
April 20, 2009
7:00 PM
Stonington Borough Hall

A Special Meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on Monday, April 20, 2009 at the Stonington Borough Hall. In attendance were Bill Abt, Chairman Peter Vermilya, Harbormaster Eric Donch, Jack Gorby, Jesse Diggs, Deputy Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks, Rodney Johnstone, George Kenyon and Jean Dixon.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman Vermilya.

Minutes

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

Correspondence

Chairman Vermilya reported the following correspondence:

Out of Jurisdiction

- Latimer Point
- Quanaaduck Cove
- Lamberts Cove (Don's Dock)

In Jurisdiction

- Eric Bam: Approval of application
- Ann Blanchard: Approval of new ram and float
- Sailing Foundation: Approval to fasten the floating docks previously located on the harbor's west side to the fixed pier at the Garbo area.

Bills Paid/Outstanding

- None

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Abt reported for January – March, 2009:
 - Total Revenue: \$0.00
 - Harbormaster Expenses: \$581.02
 - Cash Available: \$15,942.83
 - Harbor Boat Cash Reserve: \$100.00
 - Harbormaster Dock Cash Reserve: \$9,840.00
 - Total Funds Available: \$25,882.83

- Treasurer Abt reported a correction to the 2009 Budget published in March. It had been noted that the funds recorded by the Finance Department of the Town of Stonington representing “Mooring Fees” for the year 2008 were low in comparison to previous years. Investigation determined that \$460 was mistakenly entered in the Town’s books as “Cash Reserved for New Dock” rather than “Mooring Fees” for the month of August, 2008. The adjustment has been made on the town records. Total funds available to the SHMC remain the same; however, SHMC budget sub-total entries have been corrected.
- Treasurer Abt proposed that some portion of the SHMC available funds be invested to earn interest while remaining accessible. A money market account was preferred because of immediate access to funds.

The motion to authorize the Treasurer to deposit \$15,000 into a money market account was approved, seconded and carried.

Harbormaster’s Report

The Harbormaster’s Report, April 20, 2009, was presented by Harbormaster Donch and is attached.

- The sunken vessel south of the fishing pier was removed by a team of volunteer divers under difficult weather and harbor conditions. The owner of the vessel assumed expenses for removal. In appreciation of the divers’ efforts, the commission authorized Chairman Vermilya to send a thank you note and a gift certificate.

The motion to authorize the Chairman to purchase a \$75 gift certificate for this purpose was approved, seconded and carried.

- Discussion ensued on the purchase of the marker buoys and gear for the Transient Mooring Area. A committee was formed to research and make the purchase (A. Banister, Jack Gorby, and Charles Estabrooks).

The motion to authorize the sum of \$5,000 for the purchase was approved, seconded and carried

- Assistant Harbormaster Estabrooks reported that the refloated dock moored temporarily in the center of the harbor is the property of the yacht club. Dan Verdier of the club committed to remove the dock by the end of the month.

- Harbormaster Donch received a citizen donation which was not designated by the donor for a specific purpose. The commission agreed that non-specific donations will go to the general fund while dock or boat donations will continue to go to those funds.

Old Business

Stonington Commons Dock Management

- Clearview Investment Management representative, Steve Semkowicz, was present to discuss Clearview's management of the docks adjacent to Stonington Commons with the SHMC. Clearview is located in Stamford, CT and will operate the docks as Stonington Harbor Marina.
- Electrical, structural and plumbing repairs/maintenance has been completed and the COP issued for operation.
- Dock staff will consist of a part-time, local dock master, Janet Donch. The commission acknowledged her aunt-relationship to Eric Donch, Harbormaster. In keeping with the self-service marina concept, the dock master will monitor dock activity several times daily and will be accessible by phone at other times.
- Slips will continue to be available to the public as well as to those persons/organizations that hold slips under prior agreement, the latter retaining preferential status.
- Mr. Semkowicz acknowledged the need for comprehensive storm preparedness and will review the plan developed by the Stonington Harbor Yacht Club for use by Clearview. The Clearview plan will be submitted to the SHMC for approval.
- Clearview will provide the following to SHMC:
 - Liability insurance requirements for individual boat owners.
 - Insurance coverage held by Clearview for the Stonington Harbor Marina facility and operation.
 - Storm preparedness plan.

New Mooring Locations

- The status of Marcia Porter's mooring was discussed and is pending.

Wharfing Out Policy

- The commission agreed to defer further review of the policy until an absent committee member returns.

SHMC Computer and Records

- Charles Estabrooks presented FOI requirements governing the timely and complete posting of commission documents for public access on the town website. Chairman Vermilya and Jean Dixon will develop procedure for compliance.
- A “Gold Copy” of the SHMC database will be located at the IT (Information Technology) vault at the Stonington Town Hall, thereby providing a secure location for the information.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned 8:21PM.

Attachment A
Harbormaster Report
April 20, 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: \$ 1420 (2009 YTD = \$ 1420)

Applications received to date: 243
Applications approved to date: 95
Applications pending to date: 21

Stonington Harbor Marina docks (formerly known as Stonington Harbor Yacht Club docks) were closed 4/13/09 until further notice while repairs are being performed. Structural repairs were underway 4/15/09. Electrical and fresh water were to be inspected the same week.

The sunken vessel between the South fishing pier and the dockominium docks has been removed by the owner.

Robert G.:

Don's Dock has painted the bottom.

PMW Marine to complete spring commissioning including 2 new marine batteries.

Expect to launch boat within next two weeks.

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Donch
Stonington Harbormaster