

Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting
May 11, 2009
7:00 PM
Stonington Police Headquarters

The regular meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on Monday, May 11, 2009 at the Stonington Police Headquarters. In attendance were Chairman Peter Vermilya, Harbormaster Eric Donch, Jack Gorby, Jesse Diggs, Deputy Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks, Rodney Johnstone, George Kenyon, Ed Smith, Alan Banister and Jean Dixon.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04PM by Chairman Vermilya who announced commission member, Alan Banister's appointment to a second term on SHMC. Also noted was the resignation of Bill Geary from the commission.

Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2009, meeting as amended was seconded and carried.

Correspondence

Chairman Vermilya reported the following correspondence:

Out of Jurisdiction

1. Latimer Point-Tofte: shoreline modifications
2. Mystic River-Brewers Yacht Yard: dredging and new dock slips
3. Quiambog Cove-166 Cove Road: reduction of float size

In Jurisdiction

1. Permit application by the Town of Stonington to the CT DEP to repair the South Pier of the Stonington Town Dock complex. The plan is to excavate the pier such that the stone work can be repaired as necessary. A liner of geotextile and gravel will be installed. Most of the work will be done on the north wall. SHMC- No comment.
2. DEP tentative approval of Stonington Harbor Yacht Club application to install new sailing program floats (see note on #4.)
3. DEP permit approval-Declan Doogan, 15 Main Street, Stonington, CT-install a 72' fixed wood pile and timber pier.

4. DEP temporary authorization for Stonington Harbor Yacht Club to temporarily place a hinged floating launch ramp, ramp and floating docks; permit good for 30 days and 30 day extension upon request.

Note: Jack Gorby will clarify specifics and history of these transactions (#2, #4) with SHYC Dan Verdier prior to SHMC comment.

5. Stonington Borough, 15 East Grand Street Homeowners Association: Application for new permit to include retention of the existing structure as well as the new step-down dock platform, 3 tie-off pilings and two swim ladders which were added without permission to the original 1996 permitted construction. The Association was issued a notice of violation in July, 2008 by DEP and is required to submit application for a new permit as described. SHMC rejected the application pending further information.
6. Notice of hearing to be held on 05/12/09 by the Borough Planning and Zoning Commission on a request for permission to expand the existing deck on the east face of the DogWatch Café. Jack Gorby will attend the hearing to respond with no comment for the SHMC.
7. Letter from the Wadawanuck Club regarding the Dodson Boatyard application for two 180' dock extensions which club states it is not endorsing. The commission discussed this issue in conjunction with the Wharfing Out Policy under Old Business. The commission will review the Dodson proposal under the Wharfing Out Policy for discussion and vote at the next meeting.
8. Certificate of Permission application to DEP from Stonington Harbor Marina for modifications to the existing permit to allow seasonal rather than transient berthing for small boats in the waters east of the eastern main float for the 2009 season. SHMC-no comment.

Bills Paid/Outstanding

- Payment pending to Don's Dock for Harbormaster boat prep and bottom paint: \$589.00.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Abt submitted The Treasurer's Report for April, 2009 (attachment A); the motion to approve the report as written was seconded and carried.

Harbormaster's Report

The Harbormaster's Report, May 11, 2009, was presented by Harbormaster Donch (Attachment B); the motion to approve the report as written was seconded and carried.

- Discussion ensued about the appropriate location to keep the Harbormaster boat. Harbormaster Donch will speak with Dodson's

and Walkers about their sites as possibilities in addition to the Stonington Harbor Marina's offer mentioned in his report.

Old Business

Stonington Commons Dock Management

- Clearview Investment Management has submitted documents requested at the April 20th meeting to Harbormaster Donch and Chairman Vermilya.

New Mooring Locations

- Extensive review of the procedure by which the harbormaster allocates newly available moorings to wait list persons was held by the commission. The importance of timely allocation to maximize mooring usage was emphasized as was fairness in the process.

Contacting wait list people who may not be immediately accessible, assessing their current interest and qualifying their boat for the mooring capacity can be lengthy and cause significant effort and delay in the process.

To optimize timely contact and response with the wait list, the commission approved updating the database with current information. A letter will be sent to all persons on the list requesting contact information, their continued mooring interest and current boat specifications for mooring assignment.

J. Diggs, A. Banister and E. Smith will coordinate the letter and mailing with E. Donch.

Wharfing Out Policy

- The Wharfing Out Policy proposal was reviewed and amended for wording. The motion to approve the Wharfing Out Policy as amended was seconded and carried. (Attachment C.)

SHMC Computer and Records

- Chairman Vermilya and Jean Dixon will develop procedure for compliance with FOI requirements for posting commission documents on the town website.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned 9:22PM.

Attachment A

Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Treasurer's Report
May 11, 2009

Mooring fees recorded by Finance office for April.....	\$2,840
Expenses for April.....	-0-
Total to date (rounded)	
Mooring fees received.....	\$2,840
Harbormaster expenses.....	581
Revenue over expenses.....	\$2,259
Cash available to Harbor Commission as of end of April.....	\$18,783
Cash reserved for Harbor Boat.....	100
Cash reserved for new dock.....	9,840

Respectfully submitted,

William Abt,

SHMC Treasurer

Attachment B

Harbormaster Report

May 11, 2009

New Mooring permits issued: 0
Additions to Waiting List: 0 Total: 213
Mooring being given up (this month): 1 (Minor N-64)
New Mooring assignments offered: 0
Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$ 5380 (2009 YTD = \$ 6800)
Plus \$ 100 to fund as donation
Applications received to date: 242
Applications approved to date: 212
Applications pending to date: 30

Spoke with Steve Semkowicz from Stonington Harbor Marina docks about keeping the "Robert G." at their dock. He stated they would be willing to have the boat there. His initial offer was to keep the boat on their dock at no charge. I informed him the SHMC would not expect to receive a spot for free, nor would that appear politically correct. He agreed a fee could be negotiated by the SHMC and himself.

Robert G.:

Boat Launched April 28.

Boat is in its regular berth at the shell fishing dock.

New dock lines and fenders donated by Brad Ferguson of Northeast Marine Liquidators.

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Donch
Stonington Harbormaster

**Stonington Harbor Management Commission Wharfing Out Policy
May 11, 2009**

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 Stonington Harbor 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 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 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 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. Enables better free and safe direct public access to the Harbor, or the waterways within the jurisdiction of the SHMC.

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

3.3. Future Use of the Harbor Considerations:

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.

3.4. Other Considerations:

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

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