

Town of Stonington, CT  
Stonington Harbor Management Commission  
Regular Meeting  
June 8, 2009  
7:00 PM  
Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall

The regular meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on Monday, June 8, 2009 at the Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall. In attendance were Chairman Peter Vermilya, Harbormaster Eric Donch, Jack Gorby, Jesse Diggs, Deputy Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks, Rodney Johnstone, George Kenyon, Ed Smith and Jean Dixon.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04PM by Chairman Vermilya who announced commission member George Kenyon's appointment to another term. Jack Gorby will also serve another term.

**Minutes**

The motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2009, meeting as amended was seconded and carried.

**Correspondence**

Chairman Vermilya reported the following correspondence:

Out of Jurisdiction

- 1) Notification by the CT DOT that it plans to rebuild the Route 1 bridges over Stony Brook and Quana Duck Cove starting in the spring of 2011 and finishing in fall of 2012. No work will be done from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

In Jurisdiction

- 1) SHYC received its permit for installation of new sailing program floats around the old Bindloss Dock.
- 2) Larry Davis, Trustee for the Davis Farm of Osbrook Point, has filed for a permit with the DEP that would permit the CT State DEP, under its WHAMM (Wetlands Habitat and Mosquito Management) program to "clean out existing ditches, install some new channels to salt marsh panels to drain off standing water and conduct herbiciding and mowing of the Phragmites. This reduces the Phragmites cover and allows the natural marsh grasses to reestablish." The Davis farm marshes drain into Little Narragansett Bay. SHMC has no comment on this transaction.
- 3) Chairman Vermilya received a full copy of the East Grand Street Homeowners association, Inc., permit application which would allow their existing dock configuration which is not in compliance

with the permit for their dock originally issued in 1985. The 1985 permit allowed a 4' x 84' fixed pier. Since the 1985 permit, a 3' x 65' dock platform, three mooring posts and two pier ladders were added. The permit would allow retention of these added, unpermitted structures. No construction and no impact on the environment. SHMC has no comment on this transaction.

#### **Bills Paid/Outstanding**

- Payment to Don's Dock for Harbormaster boat prep and bottom paint: \$589.00.
- Payment pending to Don's Dock for spring commissioning including motor repair, parts and labor: \$631.12.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

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

#### **Harbormaster's Report**

The Harbormaster's Report, June 8, 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 action toward those waiting list persons who do not respond to the letter mailed last month requesting current information and continued interest in remaining on the wait list as well as those persons whose letters were returned as undeliverable. It was agreed that another attempt would be made to contact a few where another valid address may be known.

The commission approved dropping persons not responding as of June 30, 2009 (including undeliverable letters) from the active waiting list. Those persons will remain in the database as inactive and may request active reinstatement through the commission appeals process by contacting the SHMC Chairman by letter at the Stonington Town Hall address.

This procedure will be posted on the town website at the wait list page.

- Harbormaster Donch will develop a proposal and budget request for harbormaster boat radar equipment.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Transient Mooring Area Buoys**

- Jack Gorby presented quotes from two companies, Gilman and Curd, for the purchase of transient mooring buoys. After reviewing technical details of two configurations, wire rope vs.

chain and pricing, the motion to authorize \$3042 for the purchase of six #29 buoys, including ground tackle, from Curd Company was seconded and carried.

#### Stonington Commons Dock Management

- The hurricane plan and insurance documentation submitted by Stonington Harbor Marina is under review.

#### New Mooring Locations

- The letter to update contact information for the waiting list was sent. The information will be used to establish the 2009 active wait list on the SHMC database as part of the commission's efforts to streamline the process of timely allocation of newly available moorings.

To-date mailing/response data is shown in the Deputy Harbormaster Report (Attachment C).

#### Wharfing Out Policy

- Further discussion of the Dodson Boatyard application for two 180' dock extensions was held. Commission vote on the application was deferred until the next meeting.

#### SHMC Computer and Records

- Activity is reported under the Deputy Harbormaster Report (Attachment C).
- Deputy Harbormaster Estabrooks reviewed the provisions for ensuring appropriate back-up procedures for the SHMC records.

#### **New Business**

- The following New Business item was moved to the front of the meeting to accommodate the presentation of a request for a littoral right variance by Stonington resident, Edward Tapley who resides on a navigable waterway in Stonington but not on Stonington harbor.

Mr. Tapley asked that the commission advocate granting him preferred status on the mooring wait list over non-residents. The commission has not approved a past similar request and does not support establishing a potentially undesirable precedent.

The motion to take no action on this matter was seconded and carried.

- A mooring holder has expressed concern to the commission that another mooring is located too close to her boat and may cause damage. Harbormaster Donch will follow up.

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned 8:59PM

Attachment A

**Stonington Harbor Management Commission**  
**Treasurer's Report**  
June 8, 2009

Mooring fees recorded by Finance office for May.....	\$3,960
Expenses for May (Harbormaster) .....	589
<b>Total to date (rounded)</b>	
Mooring fees received.....	\$6,800
Expenses (Harbormaster).....	1,170
Revenue over expenses.....	\$5,630
Cash available to Harbor Commission as of end of May.....	\$22,153.83
Cash reserved for Harbor Boat.....	200
Cash reserved for new dock.....	9,840

Respectfully submitted,

William Abt,  
SHMC Treasurer

Attachment B

**Harbormaster Report**

June 8, 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 = \$ 6800)  
(Includes \$100 donation)  
Applications received to date: 242  
Applications approved to date: 212  
Applications pending to date: 30

Memorial day weekend was quiet on the harbor.

Waiting list renewal forms are returning. 137 received to date. Harbormaster Estabrooks is handling the wait list updates.

2009 Waiting List Mailing Status

231 Letters Mailed  
115 Received & processed as of June 8 (50%)

Summary of Returns

- 37 Undeliverable (32% of returns)
- 72 Request Remain on Wait List (63% of returns)
- 5 Alternate Address/Second Attempt (4% of returns)
- 1 Under Review
- 90% of responses include email address

Robert G.:

SHMC approved Radar for boat last year. Would like to pursue this for this season.

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Donch  
Stonington Harbormaster

Attachment C

**Deputy Harbormaster Report  
June 8, 2009**

2009 Waiting List Mailing Status

231 Letters Mailed  
115 Received & processed as of June 8 (50%)

Summary of Returns

- 37 Undeliverable (32% of returns)
- 72 Request Remain on Wait List (63% of returns)
- 5 Alternate Address/Second Attempt (4% of returns)
- 1 Under Review
- 90% of responses include email address

Mooring Database Updates

- Created Waiting List Update Form
- Reassigned unused field to track response status
- Added capability for additional phone numbers