

Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting
August 10, 2009
7:00 PM
Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall

The regular meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on Monday, August 10, 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, Ed Smith, Alan Banister and Jean Dixon. Rodney Johnstone and Jesse Diggs were not in attendance.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM by Chairman Vermilya.

Minutes

Mr. Banister motioned to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2009 meeting as amended and Mr. Smith seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Correspondence

Chairman Vermilya reported the following correspondence:

Out of Jurisdiction

None

In Jurisdiction

- 1) 2 Voicemails were received by the Chair from Bob Snyder of Dodson's Boatyard during this past week, both requesting a place on the SHMC 8/09 Meeting Agenda. Bob withdrew his request indicating that he had arranged for a meeting with principals from the Wadawanuck Club to discuss a compromise design for the proposed Dodson work dock extensions. A design acceptable to the club is only one of several considerations to be addressed when SHMC considers Dodson's proposal.
- 2) FOI rules prohibit any substantive discussion of issues among commission members by e-mail according to Cindy Ladwig, Town Clerk, on 08/10/09.

Bills Paid/Outstanding

- Payment outstanding to Eric Donch for \$177.90.
- Payment outstanding to Eric Donch for \$368.64 for signage expense.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Abt reported (amounts rounded to nearest dollar):

- July Mooring Fees: \$520
- June Expenses: \$3646

- Jan-July, 2009, Mooring Fees Received: \$7320
- Jan-July, 2009, Expenses: \$4816

- Cash Available: \$19,028
- Harbor Boat Cash Reserve: \$200
- Harbormaster Dock Cash Reserve: \$9840
- Total Funds Available: \$29,068

Discussion ensued about the number of moorings and associated budget vs. actual mooring fee revenue. Harbormaster Donch will report on mooring numbers (history and current) at the next meeting.

Ms. Dixon motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report of August 10, 2009 and Mr. Gorby seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Harbormaster's Report

The Harbormaster's Report, August 10, 2009, was presented by Harbormaster Donch (Attachment A).

- Discussion ensued about using the Harbormaster boat to assist the Stonington Fire Department in fire protection/fighting activities. Chairman Vermilya will follow up with Mr. Sylvestre, Director of Administrative Services for Stonington, to understand insurance implications for using the boat for fire purposes.

- A heavy lift/haul contractor has requested a hydrographic survey from the Commission for use in planning the railroad bridge replacement work. The Commission has no such study to provide.

- The extra "No Wake" sign will be installed at Ms. Dixon's dock on the west side of the harbor to further address excessive speed and wake issues in the west area of the harbor as discussed at last meeting.

Old Business

Transient Mooring Area Buoys

- Discussion reported under Harbormaster Report.
- Mr. Gorby reported that the additional delivery fee for the buoys was incorrectly charged according to the Curd Company from which the buoys were shipped as well as the freight company, Conway Freight that shipped them. He will follow up with Conway for resolution.

New Mooring Locations

- No new mooring locations were reported.

SHMC Computer and Records

- Assistant Harbormaster Estabrooks reported that the 2009 Active Wait List has been posted on the Commission website. There are approximately 140 on the list, down from 213 as a result of the mailing done in the spring to update the current list. Three responses came in late and will be advised to go through the appeals process for reinstatement.

Stonington Borough Ordinance Approval for SHMC

- The approval of the Harbor Management Ordinance was not addressed at the Borough meeting last month. Chairman Vermilya will follow up on the status of the ordinance with Stonington Borough Warden Don Maranell.

CT Harbor Management Association Membership Renewal

- The commission noted the inadequate service and responsiveness of the CHMA during past interactions with the association. Chairman Vermilya will follow up with CHMA to clarify the benefits that we can expect for the \$200 membership fee.
- Mr. Abt motioned that SHMC not renew the membership until these benefits are understood and evaluated; Mr. Gorby seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dodson Work Dock Extension Proposal

- The Commission restated its commitment to remain open to future considerations of other proposals put forth by Dodson's to accomplish its work dock extension objectives.

New Business

Meeting Schedule

- The regular October, 2009, meeting of the SHMC is rescheduled to October 19 because of the Columbus Day holiday at a location to be announced. Chairman Vermilya will determine any conflict between Veterans Day and the SHMC November, 2009, meeting.

Dodson Temporary Dinghy Dock Safety Planning

- Dinghy Docks at Dodson's secured by apparent temporary lines at the outboard edge of the work docks were noted by the Commission. Chairman Vermilya and Mr. Smith will view them and correspond with Dodson's regarding their status.

Status of Q42 Mooring Occupant

- Harbormaster Donch will investigate the current use of the Poirier Q42 mooring by a boat that appears to be weakly secured and not registered for the mooring.

No-Wake Buoy Proposal

- Mr. Banister stated that a private party has approached him to offer funding for installing 2 no-wake buoys in the east side, "Spirit" area of the harbor, one on each side of the channel. The DEP (and other groups) approval requirements for the proposal was acknowledged.
- Mr. Abt motioned to pursue the acquisition and installation of the no-wake buoys contingent on private funding and Ms. Dixon seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- A sub-committee of Mr. Gorby and Mr. Banister will advance this proposal.

Whalen's Wharf Swimming Activity

- Mr. Gorby stated that M. Leahy had inquired about whether swimming was permitted off Whalen's Wharf. Children swim there; boat traffic is considerable and there is no signage.
- Harbormaster Donch reported that the Stonington Harbor Management Plan prohibits swimming in Coast Guard designated channels and fairways (page 23). Therefore swimming is allowed at Whalen's Wharf which is not part of the prohibited areas.
- The Commission suggested that Mr. Leahy contact the Borough's Warden Maranell or the Waterfront Commission to install signage indicating swim activity in the area to warn boating traffic.

Public Comment

Ingrid Feddersen requested that SHMC provide her with names and addresses of mooring holders and wait listed people. Mr. Gorby will follow up with First Selectman Habarek to clarify the town's official position on publishing lists with this information in light of privacy and Freedom of Information considerations.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned 8:32PM.

Attachment A
Harbormaster Report
August 10, 2009

New Mooring permits issued: 0
Additions to Waiting List: 0 Total: 131 (8 new to be added)
Mooring being given up (this month): 0
New Mooring assignments offered: 0
Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$ 0 (2009 YTD = \$ 7220)
(Includes \$100 donation)

7-25 Set Buoys marking boundaries of transient anchorage. All buoys appear to be remaining on station. Positive feedback from transients since the buoys were set. There are three moorings that are currently within the anchorage area that will be shifted at the time of their inspections.

7-26 Blessing of the Fleet. Boat parade cancelled again this year. Heavy fog would have made parade hazardous.

8-1 Installed new "No Wake" signs. Signs large vessels anchored in channel. Informed captains to keep vessels well lighted over night to avoid problems with fishing fleet. No problems reported. NYYC departed 8-8.

Robert G.:

Have discussed how we could use the "Robert G." with a portable fire pump onboard if ever needed with Deputy Chief Bill Teixeira of Stonington Fire Dept. Bill has an extra "deck gun" he would be willing to mount on the boat and set it up to be used with a portable pump if needed.

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Donch
Stonington Harbormaster