

FINAL
Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting
January 11, 2010
7:00 PM
Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall

A regular meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on Monday, January 11, 2010 at the Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall. In attendance were Chairman Peter Vermilya, Jack Gorby, Alan Banister, Rodney Johnstone, William Abt, Jesse Diggs, Harbormaster Eric Donch and Deputy Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks. Jean Dixon, George Kenyon and Ed Smith were not in attendance.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM by Chairman Vermilya. A motion to move the presentation of the Dodson Boatyard Work Dock Extension Proposal to the front of the meeting was made, seconded and passed unanimously. The minutes of this presentation are recorded under Old Business.

Minutes

The December 14, 2009 Draft minutes were amended to include Mr. Morris' Nov. 30, 2009 letter under the Correspondence section and that, under Old Business, that Don's Dock would stay within the budget made for servicing the "Transient" marker buoys this fall.

Mr. Vermilya motioned to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2009, meeting as amended and Mr. Banister seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Correspondence

Chairman Vermilya reported the following correspondence:

- a. Out of Jurisdiction
 - i. One apiece for Quiambaug Cove, the Mystic River, the Pawcatuck River, Masons Island, Latimer Point and Lords Point.
- b. In Jurisdiction
 - i. DEP approval of an application by Ingrid Feddersen for retention and maintenance of existing docks and associated piles.
- c. Bills Paid
 - i. \$722.40 to Dons Dock for servicing the 6 transient mooring areas buoys, including the preparation and installation of winter buoys.
 - ii. \$51.99 to Charles Estabrooks as compensation for the purchase of a copy of an ESET Smart Security 4 Home Edition, good for two years.
 - iii. \$450.00 to Velvet Mill Properties for 6 months inside storage for the Harbormaster boat.

- iv. Bills Outstanding: \$512. 21 to Eric Donch for Harbormaster expenses for June thru December of 2009 (pending documentation)

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Abt did not present a Treasurer's Report.

*The ASAP Software expense item on the November report remains in question, but Mr. Abt will check with the Town to determine why this has been charged to this Commission and indicate that the charge in incorrectly made to us.

Harbormaster's Report

The Harbormaster's Report, January 11, 2010 was presented by Harbormaster Donch (Attachment A).

The following discussion took place during the HM report:

a. Of the 24 letters sent to mooring holders who didn't respond to renew their mooring permits in 2009, 7 had responded, 3 with their \$20 checks, 2 replied by email and 2 said they would give up their moorings. Ten have been removed from the renewal list for 2010.

* b. 8 of the 24 were littoral moorings which according to the Plan are a particular problem because there is no recourse for the Harbormaster. There was some question as to whether there is a CT state statute that authorizes waterfront property holders to have a littoral mooring. Mr. Gorby will research that question and report in February.

c. In the mean time, it was recommended the Harbormaster not deal with noncompliant littoral mooring holders and concentrate on assigning the other moorings that have been freed up.

d. Mr. Abt asked that the Harbormaster request donations in his cover letter. Discussion as to the need for those donations ensued. It was decided that no solicitation be done in this letter because the purpose of the fund raising was not clear to the Commission and the dock issue was too complex at this time.

* e. Chairman Vermilya will contact the Boro to secure a space for envelope stuffing for mooring renewals to be sent out. He'll get a couple of dates and circulate the possibilities via email to get as many members to help as possible.

f. Mr. Estabrooks stated the electronic copy of the Plan is inconsistent with the hard copy. A subcommittee will work on that, note later under "old business".

* g. Mr. Estabrooks noted that five names have been reinstated on the mooring waiting list. Those names are specified on the attached report. Mr. Johnstone and Mr. Gorby continue to contact people who have been removed from the wait list. They've contacted most people and think about 1/3 will stay on the list and 2/3 will drop off the list. They will complete their work by the February meeting.

h. Mr. Estabrooks stated he had a conversation with Mr. Snyder and Mr. Aruda of Dodsons and was told that Mr. Kingsland will be taking GPS readings when servicing moorings beginning immediately.

i. The USCG has issued a statement that Loran C transmitters will cease to operate starting Feb 8th. This has no impact on the SHMC or the Harbormaster's activities. Most all boaters use GPS receivers.

Mr. Abt motioned to accept the Harbormaster Report as written. Mr. Gorby seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

A) Dodson Boatyard Proposal for Work Dock Extension

1. Mr. Keith Nielson of Docko, Inc. presented the "Revised 11-24-09 DEP Service/Dinghy Floats Lift Pier & Dredging" plan. In summary, the project will:
 - Install 200 +/- Linear Feet of 12-FT wide service/dinghy floats on the north edge of Dodson area of development rights
 - Relocate a lift well pier
 - Dredge 16,200+/- cubic yards of silt/sediment over 82,000+/- sq ft to a depth of 8 feet MLW
2. Mr. Banister motioned that the Revised 11-24-09 DEP proposal by Docko for Dodson Boatyard be accepted as presented. Mr. Gorby seconded the proposal. The following discussion ensued:
 - a. Mr. Diggs asked if Docko had considered the Commissions wharfing out policy. Because it was a new policy, it was not available to Docko and was not considered. However, there is nothing in the revised proposal that runs counter to that policy. Mr. Diggs also commented on the remarkable and constructive revision by Dodson Boatyard.
 - b. Mr. Abt questioned whether the new docks would be secure in a major hurricane and he was reassured by Mr. Neilson due to the location of the docks and the method used to secure them.
 - c. I. Ingrid Feddersen, an abutting neighbor, voiced her concern about the use of the docks for patrons of the Dog Watch and the loud noise and late hours that affect her. Mr. Johnstone pointed out that Dodson was providing public access and not charging dockage and that if noise was an issue, she should take the matter up as a different agenda item at another time.
 - d. The SHMC asked for specific clarification regarding the previous proposal for two (2) 180 ft floating dock extension and to verify that such proposal was completely removed from current or future considerations or plans. Mr. Keith and Dodson Yard Manager Mark Arruda both concurred with that interpretation and that no further attempts to extend the floating docks would be forthcoming.
3. A vote was taken on the "Revised 11-24-90 DEP" plan and approved unanimously.

B) GPS Mooring Anchor Location Project

1. *Chairman Vermilya will send a letter by the end of this week, 1/15/'10 to all mooring service providers including Don's Dock, Dodson's Boatyard, Cardinal Cove Marina and Greenhaven Marina to advise them that, effective immediately, the provider is required to capture latitude/longitude data during mooring service or inspection using the following process:
 - Lower mooring chain will be pulled and held vertical during reading to capture anchor position using a WAAS enabled Garmin GPS.
 - GPS coordinates shall be logged in mm.mmm format (to 1/1000th minute).
 - Data should be sent to the Harbormaster quarterly in electronic format.
 - Data currently on file should be sent now to the Harbormaster in electronic format.

C) Mooring Count/Projected 2010 Income

1. The Harbormaster reported he has a record of 384 moorings broken down by category: 254 Private, 114 Dodson, 11 Don's Dock, and 5 Cardinal Cove.
2. On the Harbormaster report is an income report from checks held for incomplete mooring renewal application in 2009 of \$340 which accounts for 17 moorings. The Harbormaster noted the 24 letters that he'd sent to non responsive mooring holders in 2009. This accounts for 41 mooring that had not been accounted for this fall.
- *3. These numbers will be useful in developing a budget for 2010 which is due for the February meeting. Bill Apt and Peter Vermilya will meet to go over the anticipated income and 2010 budget.

D) New and Reassigned Mooring Locations

1. Included in the Harbormaster Report

E) Aerial Photography of Stonington Harbor

- 1.* Mr. Banister reported that he has contacted Thomas L. Millette, Ph.D. of Research Aviation and Mapping Science, LLC and has a tentative meeting scheduled for this Saturday 1/16/'10 and the Commission is invited. However, the sentiment of the Commission was not to hold the meeting because mooring locations are now being determined by GPS readings taken by mooring service providers. It was generally agreed that the aerial survey will locate the surface BUOYS, but not the ANCHORS and therefore may be of limited value. Further the expense of a survey could be prohibitive. Mr. Estabrooks said the town was to have some orthophotographic work done, and he will check with J. Jones the Town

IT specialist to determine if work was done for the harbor. Mr. Banister will contact Mr. Millette and put the meeting on hold.

F) No-Wake Buoy Proposal

- 1.* Mr. Gorby completed the DEP permit application for six No-Wake buoys and said the application will be mailed tomorrow January 12.
2. There was a question about how checks should be made out for those organizations in the Town that are contributing to the purchase of the No-Wake buoys. The checks should be made to The Town of Stonington with a note the check is for the SHMC No-Wake Buoy Fund and sent to the Town Hall on Elm St., Stonington.
3. Mr. Gorby said it would take about 6 months to have the permit processed by the State.

G) Harbor Management Plan Rewrite

1. Mr. Johnstone will chair the sub-committee consisting of Mssrs Smith and Donch to review and update the Stonington Harbor Management Plan.
- 2.* Mr. Vermilya and Mr. Banister are to meet this week to rectify the hard copy of the Harbor Management Plan with the electronic copy so the electronic copy can be posted on the web site.

New Business

- A) Waiting List update: Mr. Estabrooks suggested an annual update done electronically by email. This will be discussed at the February meeting.
- B) *Mooring renewals will be greener this year and forward. Instead of a duplicate copy only one copy will be mailed and once completed and returned to the Harbormaster, confirmation will be emailed to the mooring holder. A suggestion was made that the cover letter should contain a bold notice of this change of procedure and that the mooring holder make a copy for their records.
- C) Harbormaster boat and dockage for the boat was a topic that was presented but was tabled until next meeting when it will be a part of the regular agenda.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 upon a motion by Mr. Gorby. The motion was seconded Mr. Johnstone and approved unanimously.

Submitted by Alan Banister, Jesse Diggs acting secretaries

* Indicates action items.

Harbormaster Report

January 11, 2010

New Mooring permits issued: 0
Additions to Waiting List: 0 Total: 148
Moorings being given up (this month): 0
New Mooring assignments offered: 0
Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$ 340 (2009 total = \$ 7720) (2010 YTD = \$0)

24 Letters were sent to mooring holders who had not responded at all for 2009 season. The letter stated that no application had been received from them for 2009. It asked for a reply via telephone or email by 15 January to explain the circumstances for not renewing. 8 of the 22 mooring holders are littoral. As of 11 January, 7 have replied.

Renewal applications for the 2010 season are ready to be processed. We need to set up an "envelope stuffing" meeting.

From March Minutes: "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." Has this been followed up on?

Current Waiting List: 148
Reinstated: 5
- John Adams (Need email address)
- Craig Appel
- Wendy Benchley (Need email address)
- James Hicks
- Matthew Coudert (Need updated contact info)

All of above (except where noted) have provided updated contact information

Robert G

December 12th the boat was placed in the Velvet Mill Building for winter storage.

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Donch
Stonington Harbormaster