

**FINAL**  
Town of Stonington, CT  
Stonington Harbor Management Commission  
Regular Meeting  
April 12, 2010  
7:00 PM  
Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall

A regular meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on Monday, April 12, 2010 at the Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall. In attendance were Chairman Peter Vermilya, Ed Smith, Alan Banister, George Kenyon, Rodney Johnstone, William Abt, Jesse Diggs, and Deputy Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks. Eric Donch, Jack Gorby, Jean Dixon, and were not in attendance.

**Call to Order**

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

**Minutes**

Mr. Vermilya motioned to accept the minutes of the March 8, 2009, meeting as amended and Mr. Banister seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Correspondence**

- a. Out of Jurisdiction
  - i. Quana Duck Cove, Chris Dixon, new pier and float.
- b. In Jurisdiction
  - i. Ltr from Ingrid Feddersen re: Dog watch request to change Boro P&Z regulations for Planned Waterfront zones. No Comment.
  - ii. Notification by the DEP that the Stonington Harbor Marina (marina operator for Stonington Commons) has applied to the DEP for a "Certificate of Permission" (COP) which would allow SHM to use the "Canal" for seasonal dockage of small water craft by the SHYC. The "Canal" had originally been authorized by the DEP for use by transient traffic. This seasonal COP has been granted by the DEP in 2007, 2008, and 2009 to the then operator of the marina.

This seasonal COP may be made permanent, pending a study of transient traffic in the area by the DEP, per a conversation between Mr. Vermilya and Michael Gryzwinski, 4/6/2010. Gryzwinski is a Senior Environmental Analyst for the Eastern Connecticut area for the CT DEP.

\* Mr. Vermilya will check with Mr. Gryzwinski.
  - iii. A form from Nils Dahl requesting to be continued on the Mooring Waiting List. Mr. Dahl will remain on the WL.
  - iv. E-mail, 4/12/2010, from CUSH offering "to secure funding to build the pump out boat emptying station at the Boro sewage treatment plant, first proposed by Selectman Brown two years ago but tabled due to budget cuts". Mtg of CUSH, DEP, Haberek, and Chair of SHMC proposed for Tuesday, April 27.

\* Mr. Vermilya will attend the meeting to determine location and funding sources.

c. Bills Paid/Outstanding

- i. To Harbormaster, \$368.29 3/25/2010

**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 Town Finance to determine the paper trail for this item to find why it has been charged to this Commission. The charge consists of \$27 and \$295.38 for Computer Expenses.

**Harbormaster's Report**

The Harbormaster's Report, April 12, 2010 was presented by Deputy Harbormaster Estabrooks (Attachment A).

- A. Mr. Estabrooks stated that the Harbormaster has 91 completed applications that he has received and will process within a day.
- B. Mr. Estabrooks generated a list of the top 25 people on the waiting list and has tried to contact them but was unable to contact 10. He handed over the list to the Mooring Support Sub-committee which will follow up as they try to contact those 10. He will want contact information to include email address and boat size and draft.

\*Mr. Johnstone will attempt to contact the 10 people on the list to get needed information.

- C. \*Mr. Donch will generate a report of the 26 pending and the 25 open after processing the 91 to notify the Mooring Subcommittee which will help to notify those not returned renewals or the incomplete renewals.
- D. Mr. Smith noted errors in his personal mooring data on his renewal paper work.

\*Mr. Estabrooks and Mr. Donch will continue to work on updating and correcting inconsistencies in mooring data.

- E. Mr. Diggs asked about the life span of the Harbormaster boat and expressed concern about the towing bracket. He asked about the number of hours the boat is used during a normal week during the season. Mr. Estabrooks estimated the boat is used between 3 to 10 hours to check the mooring field, Sandy Point and special events. He thought the boat was serviceable for a number of years to come.

- F. Mr. Kenyon made a motion to accept the Harbormaster's report, seconded by Mr. Johnston and passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

- A) Accuracy and Reporting is included under the Harbormaster's report.

- B) 2010 Budget

Mr. Abt presented the proposed budget and explained that it is to be view as a framework for the year. He opened the floor for questions rather than discussing each line item. The following questions ensued:

- 1. The number of moorings dictates the income and Mr. Abt will talk with Mr. Donch to be sure of the accuracy of the income portion of the budget.

2. A there was some confusion about the categories in the expense side of the ledger:

Harbormaster/ Equipment/ Port Supply /Boat Storage /Radar

3. There was concern about the lack of clarity in the “Donch Direct Expense” and gas category.

4. There was concern that radar not be included in the “proposed” budget because the Commission had not discussed it or approved it. If the budget were approved with it included, it infers the radar was approved which it has not.

\* Mr. Vermilya offered to work with Mr. Abt to clarify the categories such as Harbormaster expenses, boat, and equipment.

\*Mr. Abt will contact Mr. Donch to clarify expense categories.

\* Mr. Vermilya will write a letter to Town Finance to move \$300 restricted boat expenses to operating expenses.

C) No Wake Buoy Proposal:

Mr. Banister reported he had contacted Ms. E. Mariani, Director of DEP Boating division to follow up the letter he sent last month. She had reviewed the request and said she had not been able to find any state statutes or ordinances that would support our request. She further stated that she was willing to work with us as we put together the proper wording for an enforceable ordinance.

\*It was decided that this topic be discussed between Mr. Donch and Chief Stewart of the police department when they meet next. As a result of that discussion, the Commission will decide what direction to take. Until then this item has been tabled.

D) New and Reassigned Mooring Locations

1. Included in the Harbormaster Report

E) Aerial Photography of Stonington Harbor

1. Mr. Banister reported that he had provided the Commission with recent aerial photographs of the harbor from Google maps and from his GIS work. Any further need the Commission has if not satisfied by these recent photographs will be discussed at a future date but for now this is a closed item.

F) Harbormaster Boat Dock

1. Mr. Diggs brought up the question of the dock. It was understood the reason for the dock was to protect the Harbormaster boat. Other suggestions were made and pictures were distributed to show a stand-off whip that would keep the boat away from the concrete dock. Conversation with SENEFLA and the Town would be necessary before a whip stand-off was installed.
2. Further discussion of the dockage of the boat suggested the Commission look into a contractual arrangement with one of the local

public docks as a way to avoid any conflict of interest and increase the safety of the boat.

3. Mr. Diggs brought up several points that we consider during any further discussion of dock construction for the boat:
  - a. Any dock construction should adhere to the Commission's wharfing-out policy.
  - b. Any dock should adhere to the mission of the Commission which includes a benefit to the public; thus, there should be some public access or use of the dock and not for the exclusive use of the Commission.
  - c. There should be a review of other ways to spend money that better fit the purpose of the Commission.
4. Mr. Diggs pointed out that the towing bit on the Harbormaster boat was not a part of the Harbormaster's job. Towing should be done by Tow Boats US or other organization. If towing was necessary, broadside towing configuration should be used. It was suggested that the tow bracket be removed, that would free up needed space in the stern of the boat and insure the structural integrity of the transom and stern. There was also mention of the liability issue of towing but it was not discussed at length.
5. \* Mr. Vermilya suggested the formation of a subcommittee to discuss the issue of future expenditures by the Commission. Initial membership of that subcommittee would be Mr. Vermilya, Mr. Diggs and Mr. Donch.

G) Harbor Management Plan Rewrite

This project has been tabled until clear direction is given for this subcommittee work.

F) Accuracy of .pdf format version

There was no action by this subcommittee since the last meeting.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 upon a motion by Mr. Johnston. The motion was seconded Mr. Smith and approved unanimously.

Submitted by Alan Banister acting secretary

\*Indicates action items

Attachment A:

**Harbormaster Report**

April 12, 2010

New Mooring permits issued: 0  
Mooring being given up (this month): 1 (Robins V-35 )  
New Mooring assignments offered: 0  
Additions to Waiting List: 0 Total: 196  
Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$ 340 (2010 YTD = \$2940)

Mooring Renewal Status:  
Renewals sent: 275 (272 private, 3 commercial (114 DBY, 11 DD, 5 CC)) 402  
total

Replies to date: 132 Approved  
26 Pending  
116 Not received  
1 Given up

Due to an unexpected, earlier than planned, change to my work schedule I have not processed all of the applications received to date. I will be caught up on processing as of 14 April 2010. I will contact the commission members to make necessary follow-up phone calls there after. I will email all commission members with an update on the renewal process on 14 April.

An informational meeting regarding Sandy Point was held 5 April by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Approx 50% of Sandy Point will be closed to the public this season. The areas to be closed are well marked and subject to change as the nesting and migrating species use various parts of the island.

Stonington Harbor Yacht Club will be holding a flare demonstration and training on 22 May 2010 at SHYC and Stonington Point. This will be open to the general public.

Robert G

Boat will be removed from storage prior to April 30<sup>th</sup>. And launched prior to May 15.

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Donch  
Stonington

Harbormaster

SHMC Members,

Sorry I could not be at Mondays meeting. Here is a current status of mooring renewals.

Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$ 4020 (2010 YTD = \$6620)

Mooring Renewal Status:

Renewals sent: 275 (272 private, 3 commercial (114 DBY, 11 DD, 5 CC)) 402 total

Replies to date: 203 Approved  
36 Pending  
34 Not received  
2 Given up

Of the 34 not received, there is at least one more given up, and approx 12 have contacted me via phone or email to explain the delay.

I will provide a call list after next Tuesday (my next night off) of the mooring holders that need to be reminded of their status. I will also provide a breakdown of the none received with regard to littoral/non littoral.

Eric Donch  
Stonington Harbormaster  
860-303-5046