

FINAL
Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting
Dec. 12, 2011
7:00 PM
Stonington Police Headquarters
Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vermilya at 7:00 PM. Members present were Chairman Vermilya, Jean Dixon, Rodney Johnstone, Alan Banister, Bruce MacKinnon, Peter Tacy, George Kenyon, Jesse Diggs, Ed Smith, and Harbormaster Eric Donch. Sherman Crites and Assistant Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks did not attend.

II. MINUTES

The 11/14/11 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Tacy moved to accept, Mr. Banister seconded and the minutes were unanimously accepted after amending the location from Borough Hall to Police Headquarters.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Vermilya reported correspondence as follows:

A. Out of jurisdiction

There was no out of jurisdiction correspondence

B. In jurisdiction

An application submitted to CT DEP by Donald Wolf, 53 Church ST. Stonington, for permission to pursue dock modifications consisting of repair of an existing pier, installation of a personal watercraft lift, and maintenance of existing stone steps and landing at the base of a seawall. No action was taken pending inspection of the application by Mr. Diggs.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Dixon presented the treasurer's report and a motion was made by Mr. Diggs, seconded by Mr. Tacy to accept the report as read. It was unanimously accepted.

A. 2012 Budget discussion.

The 2012 proposed budget was discussed. Mr. Banister recommended that the six transient anchorage buoys should be hauled for the winter but that the "slow/no wake" buoys should stay.

Mr. Banister advised that the major expense for 2012 would be the relocation of some existing moorings. Mr. Tacy recommended that the Commission wait until an estimate of the number of moorings requiring relocation is established before discussing that cost. As that cost will be a capitol expense, the Commission deferred discussion of capitol expenses until a later time.

Mr. Diggs moved to accept the operating budget for 2012, Mr. Tacy seconded and the budget was accepted unanimously.

V. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

Harbormaster Donch presented his report, Dec. 12, 2011.

- A. The reasons for the swamping of the harbormaster's boat were discussed. Mr. Donch believes the position of the boat at the dock along with the removal of the scupper plugs contribute to the swamping in a strong Northwesterly storm. He will keep the plugs in place in the future. A second bilge pump and a means of keeping the batteries charged was discussed. Mr. Donch explained that either a small solar panel or extension of shore power from the pump out station could be used. Harbormaster Donch will continue to investigate those options.

Harbormaster Donch also informed the Commission that the fuel sending unit in the boat is defective, resulting in an inability to accurately measure remaining fuel. The cost of repairs to the boat and the age of the boat prompted discussion of replacing it with a newer model. A committee was formed to study the cost of repairing or replacing the boat. Mr. Johnstone, Mr. Smith, Mr. Diggs and Harbormaster Donch were assigned to that committee.

B. Mr. Vermilya noted that Harbormaster Donch's term expires soon. Mr. Vermilya will contact the State of CT to determine how to extend his term.

Mr. Tacy moved to accept the report, Mr. Johnstone seconded and the Harbormaster's Report was accepted unanimously.

V. A. Waiting list update mailing.

Mr. Donch will continue working on the mailing.

B. Status of non-compliant moorings.

Harbormaster Donch will continue notification using the table he has used in the past. He did not prepare one for December as there was no change since November

C. Proposal to grid moorings.

Mr. Banister will contact Assistant Harbormaster Estabrooks for update on the harbor grid.

D. Hurricane Irene mooring failure.

Mr. Donch is still working on that report.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Ms. Dixon distributed a draft of the SHMC Newsletter and explained its format. Ms. Dixon, Mr. Tacy and Mr. Diggs have some editing to do and requested help with a name for the newsletter. Commission members will make suggestions and study the newsletter for corrections or omissions.

The newsletter will be semiannual, the first sent by March 1, 2012 and second in the autumn of 2012. Hard copies will be sent to mooring holders, those on the mooring wait list, clubs, marinas, etc.. An estimated 1,000 copies will be printed. The members of the newsletter were commended for a job well done.

B. Harbor Management Plan revision

I. Mr. Smith, Mr. Vermilya and Mr. Estabrooks will continue to ensure that all the revisions are incorporated in the current version of the re-written Plan.

II. Pass down mooring rights. Mr. Banister will write a proposal to be voted on at a subsequent meeting.

C. Storm Preparations Procedure Manual.

Mr. Donch is continuing work on these procedures.

VII. NEW BUSINESS There was no new business

Mr. Kenyon moved to adjourn, Mr. Vermilya seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce C. MacKinnon