

FINAL
Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting
January 9, 2012
7:00 PM
Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall

A regular meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on Monday, January 9, 2012 at the Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall. Attending were Chairman Peter Vermilya, George Kenyon, Alan Banister, Rodney Johnstone, Jean Dixon, Jesse Diggs, Peter Tacy, Sherman Crites, Harbormaster Eric Donch and Assistant Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks. Ed Smith and Bruce MacKinnon did not attend.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman Vermilya.

II. Minutes

Mr. Banister motioned to accept the minutes of the December 12, 2011, meeting as written and Mr. Kenyon seconded.

III. Correspondence

Chairman Vermilya reported the following correspondence:

- A) Out of Jurisdiction- none
- B) In Jurisdiction- none

IV. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Dixon summarized the Treasurer's Report for the period ending December 31, 2011. Mr. Banister motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as written, Mr. Crites seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Crites assumed the Treasurer position and recapped the status of the 2012 budget. Capital expense budget work is deferred until more is known of the mooring grid project cost.

V. Harbormaster's Report

The Harbormaster's Report, January 9, 2012, was presented by Harbormaster Donch (Attachment A).

1. Wait List Mailing and Update:

- HM Donch reviewed the status of the recent wait list mailing to the top 40 wait listed persons asking that they respond with their continued interest (or not) and current contact information. Persons who have not responded to the letter or to phone calls made by commissioners and Mr. Donch will be notified by letter of their removal from the wait list.
- HM Donch reviewed the status of currently available moorings and potential offers that will be made to wait listed persons for these moorings.

- The new Wait List will be published at the end of January on the Town of Stonington, SHMC web page and at the Town Hall board of public notices.
2. Status of Non-Compliant Moorings: Deferred.
 3. Mooring Grid Proposal
 - Mr. Banister reported that the CT DEEP requires a permit to add/move moorings as proposed under the mooring grid project. If Stonington Harbor is not a permitted harbor, a more complicated “structure and dredges permit” will be required at a cost of \$650 with a 90 day application process. If the harbor is already permitted, a “certificate of permission” will be required at \$375 and a 45 day process. Both charges will be discounted 50% because of our municipal status and are a one time charge. Mr. Banister is working with the OLISP/DEEP representative, Michael Grzywinski, to determine the current permitted status of the harbor as well as the implications of the grid project on commercial permits.

Mr. Banister also reported that the David Carey of the Department of Aquaculture (DOA) should be contacted to ensure compliance with DOA guidelines on the impact that additional moorings and effluent flush on shellfish beds inside and outside the harbor may have. The commission noted that all local areas inside and out of the harbor are already “no discharge” areas for shellfish bed protection; the DOA requirements are precautionary for accidental or other discharge incidences.

The Commission decided to implement the grid project in harbor sections rather than all at one time, starting with the southwest section.

Chairman Vermilya and the Commission thanked Mr. Banister for his extensive efforts in researching these issues for the grid proposal. The Grid Project committee consists of HM Donch, Mr. Vermilya, Mr. Johnstone and Mr. Banister.

- Assistant Harbormaster Estabrooks presented a mooring grid “proof of concept” demonstration using Google SketchUp software to model a grid plan in Google Earth software of the southwest corner of the harbor. The model successfully demonstrated the ability of the software to use a satellite image geo-coordinated with a central point at 120’ spacing to interface with Google Earth to produce lat/long data for grid locations.

AHM Estabrooks will continue to develop the model to further establish its viability to meet SHMC grid needs. * He will research its suitability for interfacing with the Connecticut State Coordinate System.

The Commission acknowledged the potential need for further technical assistance on the project to supplement Mr. Estabrooks' efforts.

4. Hurricane Irene Mooring Failure Report-report is in progress.
5. SHMC/Harbormaster Discretionary Use Mooring
The Commission agreed to consider reserving a mooring for discretionary use by the Commission and Harbormaster at a future time.
6. Slow No Wake Buoys
The installation of the SNW signage or buoys at the railroad bridge entries to the main harbor was discussed. *Mr. Donch will contact Mr. Lovely at Cianbro to determine his Amtrak contact re posting SNW signage at the bridge and *Mr. Banister will contact M. Payton at DEEP for assistance in that signage effort.

A motion to accept the Harbormaster's Report as written was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business

A) SHMC Newsletter

Ms. Dixon distributed a final proof of the Spring/Summer inaugural issue and the Commission decided to publish the newsletter as soon as possible rather than wait until the scheduled March mailing. She stated that a permanent name for the newsletter had not been finalized and remains open for suggestions.

B) Stonington Harbor Management Plan (SHMP) Update

- Mr. Vermilya and HM Donch reported several inconsistencies in the current "final" version and will review modifications in sections on the Mooring Permitting process, Shorefront Property Owner Moorings, June 30 date for winter stick removal and Affidavit requirements.
- The review of the proposal to enable a public mooring pass-down through families continued. Mr. Banister motioned to include a provision in the SHMP to allow a family to transfer its mooring to immediate family members. The motion was withdrawn by Mr. Banister when the Commission determined that significant differences on the proposal among its members required further discussion with all members contributing to the decision.

Included in the discussion was wait list participation by the family member as a requirement to qualify; low participation in pasdown mooring programs in other harbors; inclusion of the concept in the SHMP update for public input; procedures for administering the policy. The commission engaged in extensive discussion to understand the issues and worked to weigh the benefit of family mooring continuity with the potential administrative overhead and impact of fewer available moorings for allocation to wait list applicants.

C) Storm Preparations Procedures

HM Donch distributed the "Harbormaster Storm Preparation Procedures" draft document for review and comments.

VII. New Business

A) Mr. Diggs initiated a discussion about SHMC input to documents submitted to the SHMC by various permitting entities (CT DEEP, CT DOT) for In Jurisdiction projects. Applications solicit SHMC input for approval consideration while permit notifications are for information only. Applications are time-sensitive and no response by SHMC represents de facto approval by the Commission. Mr. Vermilya will investigate receiving the documents electronically to ensure Commission review and response in timely fashion.

VIII. Public Comment

No comment.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 upon a motion that was proposed by Mr. Kenyon, seconded by Mr. Banister and approved unanimously.

Submitted by Jean D. Dixon

*Indicates action items

ATTACHMENT A
Harbormaster Report
January 9, 2012

New Mooring permits: 0 Moorings being given up (this month): 0
New Mooring assignments offered: 0 Additions to Wait List: 0 Total: 206
Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$0 (2011 Final - \$8160, 2012 YTD - \$0)

Again this year, with cold weather, I am monitoring "Marmion" for any signs of "Breaking Up" as this may be the best way to get her out of the harbor.

Mooring renewals are ready for second check and mailing. Will be passed on to an SHMC member to check and mail.

Cainbro has finished removing steel from old bridges. Last pieces being loaded at Town Dock this week. Large crane barge expected to leave Friday. Clean up and demobilization continues in cove. Driving pilings for Don's Dock this week.

Robert G

PMW Marine informed me that the engine will need the starter to be rebuilt. This is due to the time that the batteries were shorted while the Robert G was awash.

Boat was hauled December 8. Currently at PMW for winterizing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Donch
Stonington Harbormaster