

**FINAL**  
Town of Stonington, CT  
Stonington Harbor Management Commission  
Regular Meeting  
March 12, 2012  
7:00 PM  
Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall

A regular meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on Monday, March 12, 2012 at the Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall. Attending were Chairman Peter Vermilya, Bruce MacKinnon, Rodney Johnstone, Jean Dixon, Jesse Diggs, Peter Tacy, Ed Smith, Sherman Crites, Harbormaster Eric Donch and Assistant Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks. George Kenyon and Alan Banister did not attend.

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman Vermilya. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to move the New Business agenda (#VII) and the Harbormaster Report (#IV) to the front of the meeting.

**II. Minutes**

Mr. Tacy motioned to accept the minutes of the February 13, 2012, meeting Mr. Crites seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**III. Correspondence**

Chairman Vermilya reported the following correspondence:

A) Out of Jurisdiction

- Request for COP to repair seawalls at St. Edmunds Retreat, Inc. at Enders Island.

B) In Jurisdiction

- Notice received from PMW of past due invoices for \$158.99 (10/5/2011) and \$450.00 (12/21/2011). Mr. Crites will follow up.
- Letter sent to CT Secretary of State requesting reappointment of the Harbormaster and Assistant Harbormaster.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Crites summarized the Treasurer's Report for the period ending February 29, 2012, (Attachment A). Mr. Tacy motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as written, Ms. Dixon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**V. Harbormaster's Report**

A) The Harbormaster's Report (Attachment B) was presented by Harbormaster Donch.

- During this period, one new mooring permit was issued, 2 moorings were given up; 206 total on wait list; 0 mooring assignments offered; \$5660 YTD mooring fee deposits.
- 281 Mooring renewals were sent: 278 private, 3 commercial (113 Dodson Boatyard, 11 Don's Dock, 5 Cardinal Cove) for total mooring count of 407.
- One mooring revoked for non-use; to date 3 moorings given up.

- Army Corp of Engineer repair work will commence on the outer breakwater in September. \*Commission requested that HM Donch ensure that breakwater debris from storm and repair be removed to eliminate navigational safety hazards..
- HM Donch reviewed the Stonington Harbor SNW policy and new Pumpout facility references in the 2011 Connecticut Boater's Guide. The Commission noted that the Pumpout facility is listed as part of the Stonington Sewage Treatment Facility with the contact telephone number of Town Hall.
- Mr. Crites motioned to accept the Harbormaster's Report as written, it was seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### B. Mooring Grid Proposal

1. Mr. Johnstone and Mr. Jeff Dunn presented and demonstrated a proposal to develop a GIS mooring grid plan using digital cartography software, DEEP state maps of the harbor, Google Earth, mooring lat/long data currently on file and grid mapping data for locating grid points. Mr. Dunn showed the system's capacity to store data at each grid point and potentially interface with the SHMS database. The system will assist the Commission in identifying additional mooring locations in the harbor for public use as well as document the GIS location of every mooring to enable enforcement of that location over time during the mooring inspection process or disaster recovery.
2. Mr. Diggs motioned to accept Mr. Dunn's proposal and engage his services for his fee of \$525. The motioned was seconded by Mr. Tacy and passed unanimously.
3. HM Donch stated his preference to color code mooring locations in the grid system by inspection cycle year and that newly available mooring permits will be issued at the moorings' new grid locations.
4. Mr. Dunn will work toward presenting the new grid system to include an overlay of current mooring locations at the next SHMC meeting. \*Mr. Johnstone will provide Mr. Dunn with the CAD file of mooring locations.
5. Discussion of potential increase in commercial moorings raised by a harbor service provider under the new program was deferred.

#### C. Harbormaster Boat Committee Report

Mr. Diggs presented the committee's Harbormaster Boat Conditions and Options Report which evaluated the ROBERT G boat condition and recommended options regarding its continued service or replacement. Future service and maintenance requirements on the current boat could be considerable; known issues include fuel tank replacement and transom repair at \$8,300. The committee presented several replacement options and found minimum price differential between recent used and new boats. Its recommendation was that a replacement boat represents the best long term value and that the ROBERT G should be replaced in the near future.

The commission reviewed financing options for boat replacement and concluded that more information about SHMC finances was necessary before a new boat could be considered. \*Treasurer Crites will provide the commission with an assessment of funds available for a replacement boat and the committee will evaluate potential boats within those guidelines.

**D. Slow No Wake Buoys**

HM Donch is coordinating the permitting procedure for railroad bridge SNW signage with DEEP Mike Payton and Amtrak. They surveyed the area and identified viable locations for the signage on the north side of both railroad spans which will be visible to boaters exiting the Lambert's Cove area into the harbor.

**E. Harbormaster Report on Hurricane Irene Mooring Failure**  
Nothing was presented.

**VI. Old Business**

**A) Stonington Harbor Management Plan (SHMP) Update**

- Mr. Vermilya, HM Donch and Ms. Dixon will edit the final version to ensure incorporation of all updates from past reviews for the next meeting.
- The proposal to enable a policy of public Mooring Pass-down through families was brought to vote after extensive commission discussion over several meetings (reference SHMC meeting minutes for November, 2011 through February, 2012 under SHMP Update for history of the proposal). Public Comment was heard against the pass-down proposal arguing that those moorings should be available for assignment to mooring wait list persons who have been waiting for many years to acquire a mooring in the harbor.
- Mr. Diggs made the following motion to approve the concept of "Transfer of Moorings within a Family":

A current private mooring holder in good standing may pass his/her mooring on to a direct descendent member of his/her family (defined as son or daughter) provided that the identified mooring recipient has demonstrated a bona fide interest in having said mooring as evidenced by being on the current Mooring Waiting List for at least five (5) years.

Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and did not pass with a 6-2 vote against the motion. Voting yes on the motion: Mr. Diggs, Mr. Smith; voting no on the motion: Mr. Johnstone, Mr. Vermilya, Mr. Tacy, Mr. MacKinnon, Mr. Crites and Ms. Dixon.

## B) SHMC Web/Database Committee Report

- AHM Estabrooks reported on the status of the Web Database project.
- A motion to fund the purchase of a new computer for AHM Estabrooks to do his web work on was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

## VII. New Business

A) Representatives from the New England Science and Sailing Foundation (NESS) presented its program that offers community sailing programs/opportunities in Stonington Harbor with its fleet of six leased Ideal 18 sloops.

- The program was initiated last year and the 2011 moorings were provided by Dodson's. NESS now seeks a more permanent mooring arrangement.
- Tucker Bragdon reviewed the program's community benefits and requested SHMC assistance in obtaining 6 moorings in the harbor for the six Ideal 18's.
- The Commission acknowledged the community benefit of the NESS program and stated that the current Harbor Management Plan does not support special purpose moorings that would accommodate NESS's mooring requirement.
- Mr. Bragdon stated that a med-mooring strategy is also being considered off the Foundation's dock to accommodate the boats. This solution appears to hold promise and HM Donch will assist NESS to develop this plan for review by the Commission.
- Public comment was heard to object to using moorings for purposes other than mooring wait list relief given the many years that many had been waiting for a mooring.

## VIII. Public Comment

Comment as noted.

## IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00PM upon a motion that was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Submitted by Jean D. Dixon

\*Indicates action items

Report Date: 02/29/2012					
	2012 Budget	Jan	Feb	YTD	vs
<b>Available Funds:</b>					
Balance Brought Forward:	22,754.26	22,754.26	22,159.56	22,754.26	
Mooring Fees:	8,200.00	1,000.00	3,760.00	4,760.00	(3,440.00)
Miscellaneous Income:	200.00		100.00	100.00	(100.00)
<b>Total Available:</b>	<b>31,154.26</b>	<b>23,754.26</b>	<b>26,019.56</b>	<b>27,614.26</b>	<b>(3,540.00)</b>
<b>Operating Expense:</b>					
<b>Mooring Admin:</b>					
Mailings:	500.00	382.70		382.70	117.30
Telephone:	660.00	57.00		57.00	603.00
Computer Software:	150.00			0.00	150.00
Miscellaneous:	75.00			0.00	75.00
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>1,385.00</b>	<b>439.70</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>439.70</b>	<b>945.30</b>
<b>Boat:</b>					
Fuel & Oil:	500.00			0.00	500.00
Commissioning:	450.00			0.00	450.00
Storage:	600.00			0.00	600.00
Maintenance/Repairs:	650.00	425.00	2,561.00	2,986.00	(2,336.00)
Equipment:	535.00			0.00	535.00
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>2,735.00</b>	<b>425.00</b>	<b>2,561.00</b>	<b>2,986.00</b>	<b>(251.00)</b>
<b>Harbor Maintenance:</b>					
Buoys Haul/Store:	600.00			0.00	600.00
Buoy/Mooring Service:	1,000.00			0.00	1,000.00
Signage:	1,100.00			0.00	1,100.00
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>
<b>Dock/Pumpout:</b>					
Dock Eqpt./Maintenance:	20.00			0.00	20.00
Pumpout Eqpt./Maintenance:	0.00			0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous:	80.00			0.00	80.00
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Administrative:</b>					
Supplies:	100.00			0.00	100.00
New letter:	1,400.00	730.00		730.00	670.00
Professional Services:	0.00			0.00	0.00
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>730.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>730.00</b>	<b>770.00</b>
<b>Total Operating:</b>	<b>8,420.00</b>	<b>1,594.70</b>	<b>2,561.00</b>	<b>4,155.70</b>	<b>4,264.30</b>
<b>Project &amp; Capital Expense:</b>					
SNW Implementation:	0.00			0.00	0.00
Dock/Pumpout Project:	0.00			0.00	0.00
Ordinance Update Project:	0.00			0.00	0.00
Harbor Donations:	0.00			0.00	0.00
Administrative Eqpt.:	0.00			0.00	0.00
New Boat Fund:	0.00			0.00	0.00
Shared Data Access:	0.00			0.00	0.00
Boat Radar:	0.00			0.00	0.00
Side Scan Sonar:	0.00			0.00	0.00
Mooring Field Grid Project:	0.00			0.00	0.00
<b>Total Project/Capital</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Grand Total Expense</b>	<b>8,420.00</b>	<b>1,594.70</b>	<b>2,561.00</b>	<b>4,155.70</b>	<b>4,264.30</b>
<b>Ending Available Funds:</b>	<b>22,734.26</b>	<b>22,159.56</b>	<b>23,458.56</b>	<b>23,458.56</b>	
<b>Notes:</b>					
Petty Cash Advance	300.00	not committed:	4 - PO box		
Harbor Boat Reserve	520.00		5.75 - mail		

