

Town of Stonington
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
June 11, 2012
Stonington Police Station **FINAL**

The regular meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held 6/11/12. Attending were Chairman Peter Vermilya, Rodney Johnstone, Bruce MacKinnon, Jesse Diggs, Peter Tacy, Jean Dixon, Harbormaster Eric Donch and Assistant Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. MINUTES

Mr. Diggs moved that the minutes of the May 14, 2012 meeting be accepted, Mr. MacKinnon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Out of jurisdiction

1. A letter was received from the Simmons Family Limited Partnership requesting permission to make repairs of a stone wall in Quana Duck Cove.

2. A letter was received from Jane Schaeffer requesting repair of a fixed pier on the west side of Wamphassuc Point.

B. In jurisdiction

1. The New England Science and Sailing Foundation has applied to the Stonington Borough Zoning Board for permission to make renovations to an existing building at 70 Water St. The renovation would have an effect on the harbor.

The request was studied and discussed, Ms. Dixon moved that the request be accepted, Mr. MacKinnon seconded and the motion passed with Mr. Diggs abstaining and Mr. Tacy recusing himself as a former member of the board of NESSF.

4. TREASURERS REPORT

The treasurer's report was deferred until the July 9, 2012 meeting due to the absence of Treasurer Crites and the changes in the format proposed by Mr. Crites.

5. HARBORMASTER'S REPORT

The harbormaster's report was discussed, Mr. Tacy moved to accept, Mr. Diggs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

a. Mooring grid project report: Mr. Johnstone reported that the harbor grid has been established but a survey will be done by Harbormaster Donch to verify that all grid points will have sufficient depth to accommodate boats safely. Mr. Johnstone moved that the grid as drawn by Mr. Jeff Dunn be accepted with the allowance of additions and subtractions of grid points to be made at the discretion of the harbormaster. Mr. Tacy seconded and a discussion followed. The current numbering of moorings will remain, with an "X" being added to the current number after a mooring is inspected and moved to its new grid position. After all moorings are in position, a more logical numbering system will be implemented.

Mr. Diggs presented questions of concern regarding moorings resetting sufficiently if they are raised every three years. He also questioned if the gridding would result in an increase in crowding of the harbor. Mr Donch assured the Commission that in his experience moorings reset quickly and Mr. Johnstone reported that the grid would not increase density but would in fact regulate distances between boats in a safer manner.

The motion to accept the grid with the addition/subtraction allowance was passed unanimously.

b. Status of non compliant moorings: No report was made or action taken.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Mr. Estabrooks reported on the progress of the Web development. He is still awaiting a new computer to facilitate the web development. He continues to make progress.

b. Harbor Management Plan: Ms. Dixon reported that the Plan has been sent to and approved by the Town Attorney Mr. Londrigan. Mr. Londrigan made two suggestions that did not alter the Plan as written; 1. That the Plan now requires a mooring permit applicant to hold a CT Safe Boater's License. 2. That the Plan gives more discretion to the harbormaster.

The Plan Committee will meet during the next month to determine how the public will be informed of the changes to the Plan prior to its being presented before the public for vote in September, 2012.

Ms. Dixon also reported that the Office of Long Island Sound (OLIS) will distribute the Plan to all other required agencies.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Mr. Vermilya informed the Commission that he had contacted the Town regarding a paid secretary to be hired by the Commission for the purpose of recording meeting minutes. The Town Clerk suggested a person who serves that function for two other commissions.

Ms. Dixon moved that the Commission hire that secretary for a three month period. At three months, the budget should be finalized and a determination made as to whether the Commission can keep a secretary on a permanent basis. Mr. Diggs seconded that motion and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Mr. Donch reported that the outer breakwater repair project by the Army Corps is progressing and new granite blocks should begin to be placed by November, 2012.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Tacy moved to adjourn, Mr. Diggs seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bruce MacKinnon, acting secretary