

FINAL

Town of Stonington, CT - Harbor Management Commission

July 9, 2012

A regular meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on Monday, July 9, 2012 at the Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall. Attending were Chairman Peter Vermilya, and Commissioners Sherman Crites, Jesse Diggs, Jean Dixon, Rodney Johnstone, George Kenyon, Bruce MacKinnon, Jay Spalding, Peter Tacy, and Harbormaster Eric Donch. Absent were Commissioner Edward Smith, and Deputy Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Welcome

Mr. Vermilya welcomed a new Commissioner, Jay Spalding and a new Secretary, Therese Alexander. Mr. Vermilya will e-circulate a new address sheet.

III. Minutes

The Minutes of June 11, 2012, were unanimously approved.

IV. New England Science & Sailing Foundation

Mr. Spike Lobdell along with Mr. Dan Verdier and Mr. Dave Nickerson led a presentation which outlined the objectives of the New England Science & Sailing Foundation (NESS). Mr. Lobdell explained that the reasons for appearing before this Commission today were to update the Commission on the long-range Master Plan for the NESS waterfront; and to seek the Commission and Community support for its implementation. Mr. Lobdell gave an update of NESS's accomplishments thus far, which includes being one of nine sailing programs (out of 1,400) to be certified by U.S. Sailing nationally.

Mr. Verdier shared the master plan goal of improving the waterfront infrastructure to support year round programming. The target completion year is 2014 and implementation is dependent on the timing of available funds.

Mr. Nickerson presented the core components of the master plan which included adding floating docks, three ramps, two hoists, "med" mooring for power boats, and utilizing a DEEP Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) to expand floating cement docks to service transients boats over 26' in length.

Mr. Lobdell made it very clear that community and this commission's support of the Master Plan is very important to NESS. Safety and accessibility for the community, students, and staff are very important. NESS completed their presentation and received questions from the Commission.

Mr. Diggs asked NESS if they have considered other locations that would offer more space and parking. NESS shared that they have operated very efficiently in the space they have and their endeavor is to keep that efficiency going as the program grows. There are no issues around parking for staff or drop off. Mr. Lobdell stated that NESS is working well to prevent safety and bottleneck issues. Mr. Diggs asked for the length of the

FINAL

Town of Stonington, CT - Harbor Management Commission

July 9, 2012

proposed dock compared to Skipper's Dock. Mr. Griffin from Skipper's Dock responded that they would like the dock to be shortened from 350' to 150'. Mr. Lobdell indicated that the proposed NESS dock would be about the same projection into the harbor as the shortened Skipper's Dock dock. NESS would also like to build the dock higher, make it more commercial and wrap the North side with floats for transient usage. Mr. Diggs asked if they have already overlaid where to put floats. Mr. Griffin responded, yes. Mr. Diggs asked if they would be short a dock, and the response was – no. Mr. Diggs stated that he is concerned about the displacement of any moorings. NESS responded that no moorings are being displaced. Mr. Diggs asked if there are any issues around the location of the property line. NESS stated that there are no issues, the property line is unique and the new owner, Ritz, has discussed possible issues with NESS. Mr. Diggs wanted to know about how many more students NESS plans to attract. NESS responded, 2,000 students which would be an additional 1,000 since they currently attract 1,000 students. Mr. Lobdell feels this is possible since they plan to be a year-round program.

Mr. Spalding asked if the Docks will be used as transient access. NESS responded, yes; and it will be a funding source through use for classes as well as regattas, but cannot be used for seasonal dockage. Also, overnight dockage will be a source of income. Mr. Spalding asked NESS if they get boats, will they be able to provide on-land storage. Mr. Lobdell responded that their goal is to be able to provide for such storage.

Mr. Spalding asked if the improvements outlined in the presentation expands the current capacity. NESS responded, yes. Mr. Spalding then asked how much additional on-the-water activity will be created. Mr. Lobdell stated that NESS will have to get back to this Commission with those numbers. Mr. Lobdell and Mr. Nickerson responded that a 20%-25% growth, 5 years from now, would be great. Mr. Spalding asked if NESS is a safer program as a result of the recent Slow No Wake ordinance. NESS said yes, and that they supported the ordinance.

The Commission expressed concern that NESS might have difficulties with their on-the-water activities if the proposed mooring grid resulted in increased mooring density in the harbor. NESS responded that they run much of their on-water activities in the outer harbor near the outer breakwater and not in either the mooring area or the channel.

The Commission agreed that ongoing, open communication is very important between this Commission and NESS. The Commission expressed that their concerns surround the needs of the community as well as the needs of this program. The Commission expressed that they feel what NESS is presenting will make the program more efficient. Mr. Diggs advised NESS to look at the Wharfing-Out Policy.

V. Correspondence

Chairman Vermilya reported the following correspondence:

- i. Out of Jurisdiction
 - i. Mystic – Seaport Marine. Dock modifications
- ii. In Jurisdiction

FINAL

Town of Stonington, CT - Harbor Management Commission

July 9, 2012

- i. Temporary authorization by CT DEP for the Borough to remove seaweed at the foot of Ash Street
- ii. Tentative determination of approve an application by Nicholas Marco to “construct a fixed pier with utilities, ramp, floating dock and boat lift” off property located on Palmer Neck Road.
The Commission members expressed no objections to the above two items
- iii. 6/28/2012 Invoice from PMW for \$986.30 work on HM boat
- iv. 6/30/2012 Invoice from Dodsons for \$29.44
Both invoices were referred to the Harbormaster for his review.
- v. Waiting List Renewal form from Jonathan and Monet Meter
- vi. Waiting List Renewal form from Thomas L. Jones

VI. Treasurer’s Report

- A) Mr. Crites summarized the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending June 30, 2012 (Attachment A). Mr. Crites feels it is important to firm up the expense numbers so that there will be enough funds being held for various items.
- B) As a Commission, there is a need to consider when would be the best time to start spending.

VII. Harbormaster’s Report

- A) Mr. Johnstone advised and the Commissioners were all in agreement, to table discussions on capital expenses of the mooring field grid project for a future meeting.
- B) The Harbormaster’s Report (Attachment B) was presented by Harbormaster Donch.
 - He clarified that there are no moorings being given up this month.
 - There are 6 new mooring permits issues
 - There are 5 new mooring assignments
 - There are no additions to the waiting list.
 - 281 mooring renewals were sent.
 - 254 moorings have been approved.
 - Sign installation on Sandy Point could happen as early as 7/13/12.
 - He is looking into a suggestion of increased access from the main channel to Weylands Wharf.
 - He would like to deposit a gift of \$100 from Mr. Alexander Slater into the Harbormaster boat replacement/repair fund.
 - He sent out letters to all mooring holders requesting that they respond to him with their email addresses in order to update records.
 - The engine issues for Robert G. have been solved.

VIII. Old Business

A) Mooring surveys by Commissioners: Assignments, Schedule, Policies and Procedures

N- Mr. Kenyon; P- Mr. Smith; Q- Ms. Dixon;
R. No. S- Mr. Crites, T. So. S- Mr. Johnstone; V- Mr. Spalding;
W- Mr. Tacy; Y- Mr. Diggs; East Side- Mr. Donch.

Harbormaster Donch distributed a survey worksheet to all the Commissioners, and asked that nothing be written in if everything is going well. Mr. Vermilya supplied all the Commissioners and the Mr. Donch with the assignments above. Mr. Diggs stated that he would prefer to not leave the survey blank if all is well because it leaves uncertainty as to whether or not the Commissioner saw it. The Commissioners all agreed. Mr. Donch added writing in red ink is very appreciated if there are any issues. Mr. Donch stated that he will consult with Mr. Diggs and Mr. Spalding if there are any issues. Mr. Diggs suggested that pictures be coupled with reports of mooring problems. The Commissioners and Mr. Donch all agreed that this would be helpful. It was suggested by Mr. Vermilya that this process will be more efficient once the mooring databases are on the SHMC Website. Ms. Dixon will email to all Commissioners a report of New Member Expectations. Mr. Donch advised the Commissioners that if a mooring stick is found still in place that this means it is past due for removal and that he will ask the service agent for clarification and then go from there. The issue here would be unsafe moorings.

B) Web development report – Mr. Donch in the absence of Mr. Estabrook

- iii. Mr. Donch will re-send the email “Resetting Passwords” to all Commissioners. He also reminded the Commissioners that the site is not in yet a “test phase” and that they should not send comments back to Charles yet. Next month, Mr. Estabrook will give a full presentation on the website. The testing phase will follow.

The site will have links to the original 2000 Harbor Management Plan, the new Draft Management Plan as well as the Ordinance broken down into old and new verbiage with the reasoning behind the new verbiage.

C) Updated Harbor Management Plan – Jean Dixon

- i. The following dates are tentative and moving forward depends upon approval from OLISP:
 1. 8/1/12 – OLISP Approval
 2. 8/13/12 – SHMC Public Hearing 6PM-7PM (regular meeting at 7PM).
 3. 8/20/12 -= 2nd Public Notice for 8/22/12 Selectman Hearing (Kris Bell)/Boro Warden/Burgess Review & Vote.
 4. 8/22/12 Stonington Town Public Hearing 6PM – Selectman Review & Vote 7PM.
 5. 9/6/12 Town Meeting/Vote.

The Commissioners asked what the process would be if there were serious objections raised in steps above. Ms. Dixon responded that the SHMC would certainly try to negotiate with the concerns of the parties involved. Minor changes to the Plan should not impact the above schedule. Mr. Johnstone said he believed that only Stonington taxpayers can vote at a Town Meeting and that the Public must be ready to respond if asked to prove that they live and pay taxes in Stonington. Ms. Dixon will confirm.

- ii. Public Hearing on the new Plan will be held at 6 P.M. on 8/13/2012: Chairman Vermilya explained the Public Hearing Process.
 1. The Chair will moderate
 2. The PA system will be used, people with questions will line up at the standing mike
 3. Each questioner will state his/her name and address clearly to the Secretary and be limited to 3 minutes discussion time.

FINAL

Town of Stonington, CT - Harbor Management Commission

July 9, 2012

4. If necessary the Chair will assign questions from the floor to individual Commission members to answer. I will ask each of you to become familiar with certain sections of the Plan or Ordinance. Mr. Donch will serve as back up. Specific sections will be assigned this week.

IX. New Business – None.

X. Public Comments – None.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9 PM upon a motion that was made by Ms. Dixon, seconded by Mr. McKennan and approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Therese Alexander, Secretary

FINAL

Town of Stonington, CT - Harbor Management Commission

July 9, 2012

ATTACHMENT A - Treasurer's Report

Report Date: 06/30/2012

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Probable</u>
<u>Funds Generated:</u>						
Balance Brought Forward:	22,754.26	23,558.29	25,198.29	23,937.07	22,754.26	22,754.26
Mooring Fees:	8,200.00	1,640.00	300.00		7,600.00	8,200.00
Miscellaneous Income:	200.00		5.00		105.00	200.00
Total Generated Funds:	31,154.26	25,198.29	25,503.29	23,937.07	30,459.26	31,154.26
<u>Operating Expense:</u>						
Mooring Admin:						
Mailings:	500.00				388.45	500.00
Telephone:	660.00		108.78		273.80	660.00
Computer Sftwr:	150.00				0.00	150.00
Miscellaneous:	75.00				94.00	100.00
Sub-Total:	1,385.00	0.00	108.78	0.00	756.25	1,410.00
Boat:						
Fuel & Oil:	500.00		204.84		204.84	500.00
Commissioning:	450.00				450.00	450.00
Storage:	600.00				0.00	0.00
Maintenance/Repairs:	650.00		320.76	464.00	3,770.76	4,500.00
Equipment:	535.00		181.84		324.34	535.00
Sub-Total:	2,735.00	0.00	707.44	464.00	4,749.94	5,985.00
Harbor Maintenance:						
Buoys Haul/Store:	600.00				0.00	600.00
Buoy/Mooring Service:	1,000.00				0.00	1,000.00
Signage:	1,100.00		750.00		750.00	750.00
Sub-Total:	2,700.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	750.00	2,350.00
Dock/Pumpout:						
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
Sub-Total:	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Administrative:						
Supplies:	100.00				0.00	100.00
Professional Services:	0.00				0.00	600.00
Sub-Total:	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
Total Operating Expense:	7,020.00	0.00	1,566.22	464.00	6,256.19	10,545.00
<u>Approved Projects/Capital</u>						
Ordinance Update:	1,000.00				0.00	1,000.00
Admin Eqpt, Web Page (Charles):	2,300.00			2,194.00	2,194.00	2,194.00
Newsletter:	1,400.00				730.00	1,400.00
Robert G (Major Refit):	7,000.00				0.00	7,000.00
New Boat Fund:	520.00				0.00	520.00
Mooring Field Grid:	525.00				0.00	2,025.00
Total Project/Capital	12,745.00	0.00	0.00	2,194.00	2,924.00	14,139.00
Total Designated Funds	19,765.00	0.00	1,566.22	2,658.00	9,180.19	24,684.00
Undesignated Funds:	11,389.26	25,198.29	23,937.07	21,279.07	21,279.07	6,470.26

Notes:

Petty Cash Advance - 300.00 Spending - July
 Harbor Boat Reserve - 520.00

FINAL

Town of Stonington, CT - Harbor Management Commission

July 9, 2012

ATTACHMENT B - Harbormaster's Report

July 9, 2012

New Mooring permits issued: 6 Moorings being given up (this month): 0
New Mooring assignments offered: 5 Additions to Waiting List: 6 Total: 214
Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$0 (2012 YTD = \$7600)

Mooring Renewal Status:

Renewals sent: 281 (278 private, 3 commercial (113 DBY, 11 DD, 5 CC)) 407 total

Replies to date: 254 Approved

9 Renewals Pending

8 Not received

9 Given up

1 Revoked (DeCastro Y-55)

The 4' x 4' "Slow, No Wake" signs need to be installed on Sandy Point. I have been in contact with Avilonia Land Trust. We are waiting on Fish and Wildlife help with nest area. We are waiting on 3 fledgling birds to begin to fly so that we can get into the restricted area. Sign installation should happen as early as 7/13.

It has been suggested by mooring holders in the "Y" section that a "channel" be provided from the main channel to Weyland's Wharf. I will look at this as part of the gridding of that area.

SHMC received a \$100 gift from Alexander Slater after HM responded to his distress call for his capsized 17' sailboat south of Wamphassuc Pt.

Letters have been sent to all Mooring Holders and Wait List persons for whom we do not have email addresses asking to provide one.

Robert G

The engine issues appear to be solved. High pressure fuel filter was changed once more and the fuel injectors were removed and cleaned. Currently the boat is being run using a portable 6 gallon fuel tank instead of the installed tank. I will be checking the installed tank and returning it to service in the near future.

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Donch
Stonington Harbormaster