

Final
Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting
September 10, 2012
7:00 PM
Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall

A regular meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on Monday, September 10, 2012 at the Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall. Attending were Chairman Peter Vermilya, Sherman Crites, Jesse Diggs, Jean Dixon, Rodney Johnstone, George Kenyon, Bruce MacKinnon, Jay Spalding, and Peter Tacy, Harbormaster Erich Donch and Assistant Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks. Ed Smith did not attend.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Vermilya called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

II. Review of 8/22/12 Draft of Revised Stonington Harbor Management Plan (the Plan)

Copies of the latest draft of the Plan were made available to the Commissioners and the public. Copies are also available on the Commissions web site.

Chairman Vermilya reported that the Town Attorney had provided the Commission with a letter regarding the need for a town meeting to approve any new fee schedule proposed by the Commission under the revised Plan. In Mr. Londregan's opinion a fee schedule other than that currently in effect would require the approval by vote of the "legislative body" of the town, which includes a town meeting, Mr. Londregan's letter is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Ms.Dixon indicated that two new comments on the Plan had been received by email, from Mr. Scott Muller and Mr. Mike Roberts, and that the Plan sub committee would take them under advisement. The two emails are attached and made a part of these minutes

Ms. Dixon announced that the Plan had all necessary state approvals in order to go forward, and that on September 17 it will be presented to the Borough Warden and Burgesses, on September 26 to the Town Selectman, and on October 9 to a vote at the scheduled Town Meeting, assuming all necessary approvals were in hand.

III. Minutes

Mr. Tacy moved to accept the minutes of the August 13, 2011 meeting as written, and was seconded by Mr. Spalding. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Correspondence

Chairman Vermilya reported the following correspondence:

- A) Out of Jurisdiction – none.
- B) In Jurisdiction – the letter of opinion from town attorney Londregan, the email from Mr. Scott and the email from Mr. Roberts, all of which have been discussed above and are attached to these minutes.

V. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Crites summarized the Treasurer's Report, which included receipts and spending for the period ending August 31, 2012, and introduced a new, five year planning and budgeting form for use later this year.

For planning purposes Harbormaster Donch suggested that, for planning purposes, the total number of moorings in the harbor be estimated to increase by 15 moorings per year for the three years beginning in 2013 as a result of the gridding project.

Mr. Diggs moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as written, Mr. MacKinnon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Harbormaster Report

The Harbormaster's report dated September 10, 2012 was presented by Harbormaster Donch and is attached to these minutes.

The report of at least 12 soft groundings in the Sandy Point channel prompted a discussion between Mr. Johnstone and Harbormaster Donch concerning the advisability of encouraging the Army Corp to dredge a main channel east of Sandy Point. Mr. Johnstone maintained that the continued shift of the entire Sandy Point to the west toward Stonington meant that the current channel would be increasingly difficult to keep open. Harbormaster Donch felt that a main channel east of Sandy Point would be unsafe for many boaters because of exposure to ocean swells from the south, and adverse currents.

The Harbormaster was asked how he intended handling Winter Stakes, of which there are still several in the harbor. After some discussion, it was agreed that between June 30 and July 15 any remaining winter stakes or their substitutes would be replaced by the Harbormaster with orange fenders to render the mooring unusable but safe to other boaters, and to identify it as one in violation of the Ordinance. That violation

would have to be resolved with the Harbormaster or the mooring permit would be canceled.

A motion to accept the Harbormaster's Report as presented up to that point was made by Mr. MacKinnon, seconded by Mr. Johnstone and passed unanimously.

A) Mooring Grid Project Report – Rod Johnstone

Concerned that the mooring grid project has stalled, Mr. Johnstone proposed that all moorings be relocated onto the grid prior to April 1, 2013. His plan involved enlisting the financial help of current mooring holders who are not up for regular mooring inspections in late 2012 - early 2013; the mooring servicers (principally Dodson and Don's Dock) who would move the moorings; and Mr. Johnstone who would be designated by the Harbormaster to assist in locating moorings on the grid, and supervising and recording the relocation of moorings.

Harbormaster Donch objected to the proposal on the grounds that resetting all moorings in the harbor at the same time created an unacceptable safety hazard (moorings dragging) in the event of a serious storm during 2013, before the mushroom and pyramid anchors had time to set. He stated he would refuse to issue permits for such a move.

Mr. Crites proposed the full reset be done for the harbor south of the anchorage with the rest of the harbor moved onto the grid as moorings are inspected (roughly 1/3 per year). Harbormaster Donch declined for the same safety concern

Ms. Dixon suggested we compromise by concentrating on the part of the harbor with the most mooring inspections scheduled for 2012 – 2013. Mr. Estabrooks to supply the needed data to Mr. Johnstone.

After much discussion it was decided to stay with the 1/3 per year relocation original plan, with Mr. Johnston taking over responsibility for processing and maintaining the grid data and Mr. Spalding joining the grid project sub committee (with Johnstone and Donch) to help move things along.

VII. **Old Business**

A) Mooring surveys by Commissioners: Progress – Surveys are in for all sectors except T, and S south of the anchorage. Findings are much the same as previous years. Winter sticks, lobster pot floats and poorly labeled or unlabeled mooring balls. It was suggested that solution for the labeling problem is for the Harbormaster require mooring inspections

pass labeling requirements as well as equipment safety requirements before reissuing a mooring permit.

- B) Web development report – New web site up and running, although still in test mode for survey data input. Mr. Estabrooks requested continued feedback prior to the site going live January 1, 2013.
- C) NESS dock expansion – Mr. Diggs summarized the recent informational meeting that NESS hosted in order to keep interested parties informed as to the current status of this project.

While there are strong feelings about this both pro and con, Chairman Vermilya cautioned the Commissioners that the Commission has not adapted a position on this project at this stage, and is awaiting further information and details about the project before taking it up.

VIII. New Business

- A) October Special Meeting date – Because the 8th is Columbus Day the Commission will meet on Tuesday October 2, 2012 at 7pm in the Stonington Borough Hall, 26 Church Street in the Borough.

IX. Public Comment

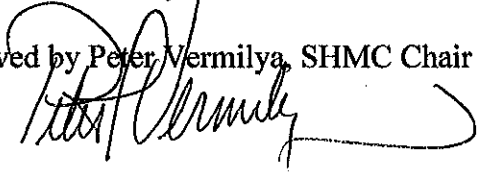
There was no public comment.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 upon a motion made by Mr. Spalding seconded by Mr. Crites and approved unanimously.

Submitted by Sherman Crites, Commissioner

Approved by Peter Vermilya, SHMC Chair



**SHMC FINANCIAL PLAN
2013- 2017**

<i>Report Date: 08/31/2012</i>	2012 Plan	2012 Prob	2013 Plan	2014 Plan	2015 Plan	2016 Plan	2017 Plan
Funds Generated:							
Balance Brought Forward:	22,754.26	22,754.26	6,435.28	4,935.26	4,035.26	3,735.26	4,435.26
Mooring Fees:	8,200.00	8,280.00	8,800.00	9,400.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Miscellaneous Income:	200.00	225.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Total Generated Funds:	31,154.26	31,239.26	15,435.28	14,535.26	14,235.26	13,935.26	14,635.26
Operating Expense:							
Mooring Admin:							
Mailings:	500.00	500.00					
Telephone:	660.00	660.00					
Computer Sftwr:	150.00	150.00					
Miscellaneous:	75.00	100.00					
Sub-Total:	1,385.00	1,410.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Boat:							
Fuel & Oil:	500.00	500.00					
Commissioning:	450.00	450.00					
Storage:	600.00	0.00					
Maintenance/Repairs:	650.00	6,000.00					
Equipment:	535.00	635.00					
Sub-Total:	2,735.00	6,485.00	2,800.00	2,800.00	2,800.00	2,800.00	2,800.00
Harbor Maintenance:							
Buoys Haul/Store:	600.00	600.00					
Buoy/Mooring Service:	1,000.00	1,000.00					
Signage:	1,100.00	750.00					
Sub-Total:	2,700.00	2,350.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Dock/Pumpout:							
Dock Eqpt./Maintenance:	20.00	20.00					
Pumpout Eqpt./Maintenance:	0.00	0.00					
Miscellaneous:	80.00	80.00					
Sub-Total:	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Administrative:							
Supplies:	100.00	100.00					
Professional Services:	0.00	600.00					
Sub-Total:	100.00	700.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
Total Operating Expense:	7,020.00	11,045.00	7,400.00	7,400.00	7,400.00	7,400.00	7,400.00
Approved Projects/Capital							
Ordinance Update:	1,000.00	600.00					
Admin Eqpt, Web Page (Charles):	2,300.00	2,194.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Newsletter	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00
Robert G (Major Refit)	7,000.00	7,000.00					
New Boat Fund:	540.00	540.00					35,000.00
Mooring Field Grid:	525.00	2,025.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	500.00	500.00
Total Project/Capital	12,765.00	13,759.00	3,100.00	3,100.00	3,100.00	2,100.00	37,100.00
Total Designated Funds	19,785.00	24,804.00	10,500.00	10,500.00	10,500.00	9,500.00	44,500.00
Undesignated Funds:	11,369.26	6,435.26	4,935.26	4,035.26	3,735.26	4,435.26	(29,864.74)