



**Stonington Harbor Management Commission**  
Stonington Police Department Community Meeting Room  
173 Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379



**February 12, 2024**

**Minutes** by Katrina Bercaw, Recording Secretary

**1. Call to Order:** Chairman Spalding called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Attending:** Chairman Jay Spalding, Vice Chairman Jesse Diggs (by phone), Treasurer Sherm Crites, Commissioners Melanie Degler, Bruce MacKinnon, Tori Gimple, Caleb Rose, Edward Smith, Joseph Williams, Harbormaster Eric Donch, Deputy Harbormaster Ethan Palmer, and Recording Secretary Katrina Bercaw

**Not in Attendance:** Stathis Manousos

**Guests:** none

**2. Minutes:**

The Minutes of the January 8, 2024, meeting were reviewed and a change was agreed upon. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. After review of the action items, no further discussion occurred. Motion passed with all in favor.

Action Items remaining open:

**ACTION ITEM #1:** Harbormaster Donch will update the transient anchorage permit, which includes the number of buoys.

**3. Public Comment:**

none

**4. Correspondence:**

● **In Jurisdiction:**

- Pollack, 264 Osbrook Pt - COP application: After review, Commissioner MacKinnon made a motion to approve the application, as it is consistent with the Harbor Management Plan. Commissioner Degler seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

● **Out of Jurisdiction:**

- none

**5. Online Mooring Update:** Commissioner Degler reviewed details in the report, which is attached. Vice Chairman Diggs commented that, in particular through Commissioner Degler's ongoing dedication and efforts, OLM has improved the Commission's work in managing moorings in its jurisdiction.

**6. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Crites**

The monthly Financial Report was reviewed and is attached to these minutes. Commissioner Degler made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.

## **7. Harbormaster's Report:**

The Harbormaster's Report was reviewed and is attached to these minutes. Commissioner Degler made a motion to approve the Harbormaster's Report as presented. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. All in favor, motion was approved.

After presentation of several options and samples by the Harbormaster, Treasurer Crites made a motion to approve up to \$10,000 for purchase of an in-service canvas cover and a winter cover for the Harbormaster vessel. Commissioner MacKinnon seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

## **8. Old Business:**

A. East Side Inner Breakwater Project Update: Commissioner Gimple reported that, after multiple efforts, she was able to procure the original, approved COP for the breakwater project. It expires in 2025, but can be extended by a year as long as there is progress. The previous cost estimate was \$5 million. Commissioner Gimple is seeking information on possible funding sources for infrastructure projects of this type, and will contact the Town and others that may be helpful in providing guidance on preparing a proposal.

B. Transient and Dinghy access working group update: Commissioner MacKinnon reported that he and Harbormaster Donch met with interested parties from Dodson's and from Stonington Harbor Yacht Club; they offered positive feedback on the proposed project. The ongoing shortage of parking is being considered. The dog park area was suggested as a favorable option for a dinghy dock, possibly with dedicated parking. The working group is continuing its research on possibilities to improve access.

C. Transient Anchorage marking: Commissioner MacKinnon is awaiting permit approval per action item #1 above.

## **9. New Business:**

A. ACTION ITEM #2: Chairman Spalding will inquire about the possibility of changing the meeting start time to 6 p.m.

**10. Adjournment:** Chairman Spalding adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Approved: Jay Spalding

Date: 11 March 2024

Attachments:

- Treasurer's Report
- Harbormaster's Report
- OLM Report

<b>Report Date 2/12/2024</b>						
	<b>Plan</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Probable</b>
<b>Funds Generated:</b>						
Balance Brought Forward:	22,129	22,129.27			22,129.27	22,129.27
Paid Moorings: Com/Pvt/Pub:	128/344/14					
Mooring Fees:	53,975				0.00	
Wait List Fees	2,000				0.00	
Miscellaneous Income:	600	1,250.00			1,250.00	
<b>Total Generated Funds:</b>	<b>78,704</b>	<b>23,379.27</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>23,379.27</b>	<b>22,129.27</b>
<b>Operating Expense:</b>						
<b>Mooring Admin:</b>						
Mailings:	0				0.00	
Telephone:	0				0.00	
Online Mooring	5,500				0.00	
Miscellaneous:	200				0.00	
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Boat:</b>						
Fuel & Oil:	1,500				0.00	
Commissioning:	2,500				0.00	
Storage:	0				0.00	
Maintenance/Repairs:	500				0.00	
Equipment:	3,000				0.00	
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Harbor Maintenance:</b>						
Buoy: Commission/Haul/Store:	9,400				0.00	
Misc Service/Locker Storage:	1,080				0.00	
Adjust Grid Alignment	500				0.00	
Signage:	0				0.00	
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>10,980</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Dock/Pumpout:</b>						
Dock Eqpt./Maintenance:	500				0.00	
Pumpout Eqpt./Maintenance:	0				0.00	
Miscellaneous	0				0.00	
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Administrative:</b>						
Supplies:	100				0.00	
Newsletter:	2,500				0.00	
Professional Services:	1,500				0.00	
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Operating Expense:</b>	<b>28,780</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Approved Projects/Capital</b>						
Insurance Reserve	10,000				0.00	
New Anchorage Buoys	12,000				0.00	
Capital Reserve	10,000				0.00	
Remove Abandoned Boat	5,000				0.00	
<b>Approved Projects/Capital</b>	<b>37,000</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>65,780</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Undesignated Funds:</b>	<b>12,924</b>	<b>23,379.27</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>23,379.27</b>	<b>22,129.27</b>

## **Harbormaster Report**

February 12, 2024

Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$1575

2024 YTD=\$1575

The Stonington Borough Lobster Pot Christmas Tree deconstruction was performed Jan 15. We assisted again by transporting lobster pots, lights and other equipment from Stonington Borough to Westerly (Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce). OCCC has stated they will be having a buoy painted for the 2024 tree in the name of SHMC

Sailing vessel "Freya" paperwork submitted to CT DEEP. Ownership of the vessel will be transferred to Town of Stonington. Dodson Boatyard has been contacted and provided an estimate of \$4500 to dispose of the vessel. Vessel is currently at Dodson's dock awaiting paperwork from the state. Capt Schneider of SPD has been working with the town transfer station for disposal of the vessel. One outstanding question is whether a selectman's vote will be required for "disposal of town property".

### **Harbormaster Boat**

Boat hauled 1/18/24.

Boat delivered to Rowmarine 2/12/24 (vessel builder in Bristol, RI) for moving of the leaning posts and bottom paint waterline adjustment.

2 bids for canvas enclosure for boat cabin.

P-Tuck Marine Sewing estimates \$3750 for the 5 panels and can be completed this spring.

Stonington Custom Canvas quote \$3500 for the 5 panels and would not be completed until fall

P-Tuck Marine Sewing estimates \$4000-\$4500 for a canvas winter cover custom made.

Boat will be covered with tarp and kept at HM Donch house for the remainder of off-season.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Donch  
Stonington Harbormaster

All

Mooring Permit

One Year Special Purpose Permit

Commercial Mooring

## Mooring Permit

Status	Count
Approved	201
Wait Listed	70
Wait List Hold	2
Renewal Under Review	6
Application Under Review	1
Vessel Change Under Review	1
Renewal Incomplete	135
Application Incomplete	8

Flags	Count
Renewal Issues	14
Potential Moves	6

Wait List	Count	Wait
Mooring Wait List	70	3 years

- (2) new WL Applications - ensured currently have vessel or actively looking to purchase - **ONLY (3) YEAR WAIT NOW**
- (5) moorings given up since renewal received
  - vessels sold
  - moved to a slip
  - does not want to pay to have inspected and rarely uses - was on list for revocation
- All renewals sent - **NO payment issues this year**
- 1/3 of renewals already paid within first two weeks - a record
- definite decrease in number of checks for HM to deposit, if any this year
- (8) applications incomplete - all for new assignments
- (6) renewal issues - all called to discuss
- received a dozen calls/emails on how easy renewals have become and happy with not having to add CT DMV Regs any longer
- Elihu Family Trust pleased to have instructions to pay all their moorings with one CC payment, rather than past individual checks
- (6) move requests for this season- (3) for HM to address/relocate-sailing vessels in outer harbor, now have smaller power boats
- (5) deferrals/WL Holds - (2) medical issues and (3) vessels damaged last year or having new vessel built/delayed
- (3) of the deferrals sent new assignment bills for \$100 since holding mooring offered assignment and they are expecting to place vessel late season - a difference from past years, now that the harbor is full
- NO moorings revoked for non-usage - called all had legitimate reasons and reiterated rules for regular use of moorings to avoid revocation
- checking all renewals for overdue gear inspections and sent emails - will address in May/June w/vendors after data entered
- checking all renewals for CG docs vs CT DMV Reg - most are old time mooring holders - all but one agreed to comply
- Commercial mooring renewals will be sent this month
- Dodson's has new system for logging Launch Passes and will be sending spreadsheet for me to confirm the private moorings
- Commissioners need to check OLM in June to update their spreadsheets before conducting surveys for 2024-new assignments-many changes
- investigating with Town to add live feed to our Town home page for Waiting List and no longer post dated copy in Town Clerk's office
  - possible change to Harbor Management Plan to delete wording to post paper copy at Town Hall
- working with HM to review mooring FAQs to add to Town home page - work in progress
- FAQs sent to Baldwin Yacht Club for their members using their assigned mooring near breakwater
- had OLM override DMV Reg needed on renewals and confirmed will not affect yearly DMV download on 5/1
- little contact with OLM with issues due to familiarity increasing with program to resolve issues myself

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie S. Degler

Commission and Mooring Administrator