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DRAFT
Town of Stonington, CT
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting
May 10, 2010
7:00 PM
Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall

A regular meeting of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission was held on Monday, May 10, 2010 at the Stonington Police Public Meeting Hall. In attendance were Chairman Peter Vermilya, Alan Banister, George Kenyon, Rodney Johnstone, William Abt, Jesse Diggs, Jean Dixon, Harbormaster Eric Donch and Deputy Harbormaster Charles Estabrooks. Jack Gorby and Ed Smith were not in attendance.

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

II. Minutes
Mr. Kenyon motioned to accept the minutes of the April 12, 2010, meeting and Mr. Diggs seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Chairman Vermilya expressed his appreciation to Mr. Banister on behalf of the commission for his duty as acting secretary during the April, 2010, meeting.

III. Correspondence
Chairman Vermilya reported the following correspondence:

A) Out of Jurisdiction
   1. Lamberts Cove
   2. Mystic Harbor
   3. Mystic River

B) In Jurisdiction
   1. CT DEP COP issued to allow the placement of instrumentation which will determine the possible effects of global warming on 1) plant life and 2) the elevation of the land in Barn Island. Issued to Melinda Smith, Yale University. The commission had no comment.

C) Bills Paid/Outstanding
   No bills received or paid

IV. Treasurer's Report
Mr. Abt presented the Treasurer's Report (Attachment A). Mr. Abt noted that the numbers were provided by the town finance department and may differ from Mr. Donch's report because of timing.

*The ASAP Software expense item remains unresolved; Mr. Abt will check with Town Finance to determine why it has been charged to this Commission.

V. Harbormaster's Report

The Harbormaster's Report, May 10, 2010 was presented by Harbormaster Donch (Attachment B).

Extended discussion:

a) HM Donch reported that 227 mooring applications have been approved. 3 are commercial and represent 130 moorings; 224 are private moorings for a total of 354 moorings and $7080 revenue (@$20.00). 4 checks ($80.00) had not been deposited at the time of the HM Report (Revenue: $7000).

b) HM Donch reported that the $380 difference in the Finance mooring revenue YTD and his report represents 2009 end of season mooring revenue deposited in 2010.

c) No report was given on the wait listed people for whom we still need contact data.

   *HM Donch will turn over the list of 29 pending mooring renewal applications to the contact sub-committee for follow-up. Approval of 26 of these pendings is dependent upon receipt of registration paperwork from the owner.

   *The sub-committee will remind owners to send paperwork to Mr. Donch at PO Box 135, Stonington or to his e-mail at Harbormaster@usa.com.

d) HM Donch stated that Mr. Larsen's mooring status will remain pending without charge for 2010 during his deployment to Afghanistan. Mr. Buck's mooring will be temporarily reassigned and his status will be reviewed annually as agreed to in a signed letter by Mr. Buck.

e) The Harbor Mooring Survey will be conducted by commission members next month and presented at the July meeting. The objective of the survey is to validate the mooring database against actual moorings in the harbor to identify and resolve discrepancies. Winter mooring sticks will be noted. Mooring sections will be surveyed and monitored periodically to ensure consistency for mooring management purposes.

   i. Commission members will conduct the survey by mooring section as follows: "N" Mr. Kenyon; "P" Mr. Smith; "Q" Mr. Banister; "R" & "S" Mr. Vermilya, "T" Mr. Johnstone; "V" & "W" Ms. Dixon/Mr. Johnstone; "Y" Mr. Diggs; East Side: Mr. Donch.

   ii. HM Donch distributed mooring section maps for use in the survey and will forward mooring lists to responsible members for validation during the survey. He noted that 3 moorings

located in the transient anchorage area will be relocated on their respective inspection dates.

f) HM Donch stated that the 2009 winter storage of the ROBERT G at the Velvet Mill was satisfactory but that a more accessible storage berth in that building is desirable. He suggested that the commission act to reserve an accessible location at the Velvet Mill for storage of the ROBERT G next winter. The availability of the mill for this purpose next winter is apparently in question.

*Mr. Diggs will monitor the status of the mill for boat storage and work to acquire a more desirable, accessible location for the ROBERT G at the mill for winter, 2010.

g. HM Donch reported that the ROBERT G transom lettering has deteriorated and needs replacement. Bryan's Signs will create the decals for approximately $170. Mr. Johnstone made a motion to approve the purchase of replacement lettering. The motion was seconded by Mr. Banister and passed unanimously.

h. Mr. Johnstone made a motion to accept the Harbormaster's report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kenyon and passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business

A) Stonington Harbor Marina Permit Change (reference April 12, 2010 Minutes, Correspondence, b-ii.)

Chairman Vermilya reported that the DEP has granted the Stonington Harbor Marina permanent seasonal use of the "Canal" area for small watercraft dockage based on a SHM study of transient traffic use of the canal. The DEP originally permitted the "Canal" for transient traffic use but has annually granted the marina owners temporary "Certificates of Permission" to use the Canal for seasonal dockage. The Commission believes that it had inadequate opportunity to evaluate and respond to the proposal prior to DEP approval.

B) Mooring Data Reporting

Discussed under Harbormaster's Report

C) 2010 Budget

Budget discussion continued from the April 12, 2010, meeting. The Commission again expressed concerns that items in the budget were capital expenditures that had not been reviewed and approved (radar) and that the budget categories were confusing. The process of assembling meaningful Commission financial reports was acknowledged to be difficult as the information is sent from the Stonington Finance Department whose report format does not optimally relate to the expense detail required by the Commission.

The need to identify, review and prioritize capital expenditures prior to inclusion in the annual budget was acknowledged. Mr. Diggs recommended consideration of sonar technology for the Harbormaster boat.

*Mr. Diggs will investigate and report on the benefits of forward and side scanning sonar technology for the Harbormaster boat.

* Mr. Abt will research categories used by the Commission in the past.
*Mr. Vermilya and Mr. Abt will develop a budget format with categories that will support current Commission needs and will identify the procedures required to capture the numbers for the revised format (i.e. tracking expense receipts as they occur at the Treasurer's level.)

D) Dock for Harbormaster Boat and Pump out Station
CUSH President Gracelyn Guyol presented an overview of the HM Boat /Pump out Dock Proposal:

1. Ms. Guyol reviewed the history of the proposal. In 2002, the Town of Stonington First Selectman proposed a dock/pump-out station facility where pump-out boats could empty directly into the wastewater treatment plant located in Stonington Harbor. At the time, the pump-out boats traveled to Westerly to discharge their sewage, a process that was costly, inefficient, and time-consuming. Their prolonged absence from the harbor for these trips did not optimally support usage by boaters. The SHMC advocated the dock as a permanent docking location for the Harbormaster boat.

   The proposal was estimated to cost $72,000 and was to be funded by the DEP (75%), the Town of Stonington and the Stonington Harbor Management Commission. A survey and plan design was conducted. The project was then put on hold because of Town budget constraints.

   In January, 2010, the DEP inquired about the status of the proposal. CUSH became involved because of the proposal's relevance to CUSH's clean harbor and water quality objectives.

2) A meeting was held with DEP, CUSH and SHMC (Mr. Vermilya) on April 27, 2010 to restart the proposal. CUSH will assume the Town's prior commitment for $15,000-$20,000 using CUSH funding and grants; the SHMC will honor its $10,000 commitment in the original proposal.

*The Commission needs to review and update project bids and quotes as well as design specifications for the dock and pump out facility.

3) Upon implementation, the Town of Stonington will own, maintain and insure the dock facility; the SHMC will be responsible for its operation.
4) Discussion ensued about using the dock for other purposes such as public use or water ferry dockage. The Commission decided to limit the dock usage to HM boat dockage and pump- out facility for safety and simplicity reasons. Mr. Diggs, who had previously expressed concern about dock expenditures for the HM boat, commended this proposal as achieving HM boat dockage as well as public benefit.
5) Ms. Guyol also reported the need to identify the entity responsible for responding to water pollution violations and for enforcing pollution regulations. She cited examples where no entity would handle citizen reports of pollution violations nor would anyone take responsibility for pollution regulation.
   *Chairman Vermilya stated that the SHMC will investigate protocol for this responsibility in other harbor communities/commissions.
6) Ms. Guyol suggested that the Commission consider participating in a joint meeting of area harbor commissions to collaborate on issues and standardize policies and procedures. She cited examples of benefits realized by CUSH during collaborative sessions with other water quality/testing organizations.

E) No Wake Buoy Proposal (Old Business item not included on May 10, 2010 agenda; raised by Mr. Banister):
HM Donch and Mr. Banister questioned why the State ordinance for No-Wake within 100 feet of moored boats didn't qualify the Commission to place No-Wake buoys in the harbor as a safety reminder to boaters.
*HM Donch will send Mr. Banister the dates that he is available.
*Mr. Banister will arrange a meeting with Ms. Mariani, Director of DEP Boating Division and the chief enforcement officer of DEP to explore ways that will enable the Commission's deployment of No-Wake buoys in Stonington Harbor.

F) Accuracy of .pdf format version
Nothing was reported.

G) HM Boat Towing Bracket (Old Business item not included on May 10, 2010 agenda; raised by Mr. Diggs):
Mr. Diggs reiterated his objection to using the HM boat for towing and to the boat's towing bit. He cited stern space constraints and transom/stern structural integrity as well as other concerns (reference

April 12, 2010 Minutes, Item Old Business #F-4). He recommended removal of the towing bracket from the ROBERT G.

HM Donch reported that the tow set-up on the HM boat was necessary to support his responsibility to take control of and stabilize dangerous boat situations. He stated that the HM boat was not configured to safely implement a hip-tow/broadside tow on many harbor boat hull configurations.

Mr. Diggs motioned to remove the tow bracket from the ROBERT G. The motion was not seconded and was tabled.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 upon a motion by Mr. Kenyon. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnstone and approved unanimously.

Submitted by Jean D. Dixon

*Indicates action items

Attachment A

Treasurer's Report
Stonington Harbor Management Commission
May 10, 2010

	April($)	YTD($)
Mooring Fees Received	4,320.00	7,380.00
Total Revenue	4,320.00	7,380.00
Expenditures:		
Reproduction & Printing		
Equipment & Support		
Harbormaster Expenses		2,328.18
Total Expenditures	0	2,328.18
Cash Available to Harbor Commission		23,295.40
Cash Reserved for Boat		300.00
Cash reserved for new dock		9,840.00

Attachment B
Harbormaster Report
May 10, 2010

New Mooring permits issued: 0
Moorings being given up (this month): 1 (Farrell)
New Mooring assignments offered: 0
Additions to Waiting List: 0 Total: 196
Deposits to SHMC account since last report: $ 4060 (2010 YTD = $7000)

Mooring Renewal Status:
Renewals sent: 275 (272 private, 3 commercial (114 DBY, 11 DD, 5 CC)) 402 total

Replies to date: 227 Approved
29 Pending (includes Larsen – Deployed)
16 Not received (includes Marston - will be late, Buck - Jail)
3 Given up(Farrell, Galindo, Robins)

All applications received have been processed.
Special cases: Buck, Charles – incarcerated – mooring will be temporarily reassigned
Larsen, Ken – Being deployed to Afghanistan – will not be charged for 2010

Commission survey of the actual moorings in the harbor should start soon.

Stonington Harbor Yacht Club will be holding a flare demonstration and training on 22 May 2010 at SHYC and Stonington Point. This will be open to the general public.

Robert G

Boat removed from storage
Plan to Launch prior to May 15.
Need to replace "HARBORMASTER" Lettering on boat. $170

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Donch
Stonington
Harbormaster