

MYSTIC HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

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Minutes of REGULAR Meeting

February 1, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

FINAL

The Mystic Harbor Management Commission held a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 1, 2024, in the Library Media Center at Stonington Middle School, 204 Mistuxet Avenue, Mystic. Members present were Lou Allyn, Fred Allard, Rod Cook, Ken Scott, and Matt Beaudoin. Missing were Tom Longo and Patrick Herlihy. Also present were Harbormaster Don Procko, Harbormaster Todd Burgess, recording secretary Katrina Bercaw, and guests Ben Tamsky, Erin Lee, David Lee, and Chad Frost.

Minutes by Katrina Bercaw, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Chairman Allyn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said.

Minutes: Minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 4, 2024, were reviewed. Mr. Scott made a motion that the minutes be approved. Mr. Beaudoin seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

Chairman

a) The draft update to the Mystic Harbor Management Plan is being reviewed by Braden Lynn with the Planning Division at DEEP. Mr. Lynn, who is familiar with harbor management plans and the area, will also circulate it to Army Corps and others as needed for their comments and suggestions.

Harbormasters

- a) Reports: see below
- b) Local Harbormasters Group will meet next Wednesday to trade ideas and review jurisdictions. Mr. Beaudoin requested these stakeholders also provide suggestions on what should be included in a visitor information sheet for visiting boaters.
- c) Online Mooring 2024 Renewals: To date, approximately half of the mooring fees holders have submitted their fees.

Unfinished Business

- a) Mystic River Boathouse Park Application: Mr. Cook provided information on some of the concerns regarding the interface of the boating channel and the Boathouse crew boats which had been brought up at a meeting with the boathouse planners. It was suggested that by not installing the proposed new pilings 1 through 6, eliminating the proposed anchorage area east of the channel, and adding a speed limit sign, the boathouse dock location would work without modification. The Commission would still install the two upstream pilings to clarify the channel location.
Chad Frost, landscape architect and living shoreline designer for the Boathouse development, then spoke about the projected paths of crew boats departing from and returning to the dock—they are

proscribed/limited by the length of the boat and the experience of the high school crew. He provided an overview of the river showing where the crews warm up and race in a regatta. He pointed out that once the center is opened to the community, usage is likely to increase; he suggested anticipating 15-20 launches per day in the high season. The floating dock for the rowing shells, which will have an elastomeric mooring system rather than pilings, stretches out 140 feet over water. The boathouse plans to install reflective material along the edge of the dock, which is low to the water—about 6 inches high—to accommodate access by the shells, which have 14-foot oars. The boathouse plans to remove the dock in the winter months. It was proposed to add a *Slow/No Wake* sign or a lighted buoy at the end of the federal channel for boats coming upstream to warn of congestion in the area.

Mr. Allyn made a motion that the project be approved, as it is not inconsistent with the Mystic Harbor Management Plan. Mr. Scott seconded the motion, which was approved with one abstention.

- b) Visitor Tips & Information: Mr. Beaudoin is working to optimize content on what he proposes will be a one-page information sheet.
- c) Kayak Launch Assistant - more information will be shared next month.

New Business

- a) LWRD License Application Form H Coastal General Permit #202400169, 10 Skiff Lane. After discussion, Mr. Allard made a motion that the project be approved, as it is not inconsistent with the Mystic Harbor Management Plan. Mr. Cook seconded the motion, which was approved with all in favor.
- b) Stonington High School Community Civics Club wrote to offer their assistance to the Commission. Mr. Allyn sought input on how they could assist with MHMC initiatives. One idea was to help with the visitor sheet graphics.
- c) Certificate of Application #202308931- COP Shoreline Restoration Enders Island – rescheduled to March 7, 2024

Adjourn

Mr. Allyn made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Cook seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lou Allyn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lou Allyn, Chairman