

Mystic Harbor Management Commission
July 3, 2014 Minutes
Final

The Mystic Harbor Management Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, July 3, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fourth District Voting Hall. Commission members present were: Chairman David Carreau, Don Procko, Lou Allyn, Rod Cook, and Harbor Master Paul Watts. Paul Bates, Jeff Anderson, Bill Brissette, Bill Lucus, Tom Schlagal and Lisa Brooks also attended.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., beginning with the Pledge Of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cook made a motion to accept the June 5, 2014 minutes. Mr. Procko seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously approved it.

Harbor Master Reports

Derelict boat

Harbormaster Watts reported that a 45-50 ft. steel boat is aground off Roseleah Drive. The boat was recently sold to Mr. James Murphy. The boat was moved from a legal mooring to an illegal mooring and is now listing on the mud flats. The boat is considered a derelict. The Coast Guard has been on the scene and is in the process of making a determination.

Unfinished Business

Dredging of Federal Channel & Mystic Auxiliary Fairway

Chairman Carreau reported that the three involved marinas have made their respective payments, which have been processed by the Town of Stonington.

Mooring Removal from the Turning Basin

The mooring owners, attending this meeting, expressed concern over the timing of their mooring removals. It was stated that the respective boatyards did not wish to meet the required hauling dates to allow the dredging schedule to be met. Chairman Carreau stated that it is the commission's responsibility to insure that all moorings will be removed so as not to interfere with the Army Corps task. Chairman Carreau stated that we must all work together to insure that dredging can be accomplished in this federal designated area of the river. Coordination with the hauling yards will be necessary.

The new mooring configuration and the associated details will not be determined until after the completion of the dredging project. Chairman Carreau reiterated that the position taken on the use of this dredged turning basin is the sharing of its use as an anchorage, a mooring field and a turning basin. This is based on the overall statement in the management plan that water resources will be allocated to provide greater public opportunities. Harbormaster Watts expressed his support for this project and his concern for existing mooring holders in the effected area.

East Fairway - Abandoned Moorings

Two moorings have been removed. The third will be removed once its identity has been confirmed. It was also noted that one red buoy marking the fairway is submerged at high water. Harbormaster Watts and Mr. Allyn will investigate.

Harbor Commission Budget

A motion was made by Chairman Carreau to raise the mooring fee to \$50 per mooring; Mr. Cook seconded it. The commission unanimously approved it. This was based on the fact that the present \$10.00 fee can no longer keep up with increasing expenses despite the extensive volunteerism provided by commission members and supporting businesses. The town Finance Office has outlined the procedure for this to be accomplished. The Town of Stonington provides accounting services but no budget for expenses. The \$50.00 fee is in line with the Stonington Harbor Management Commission. It was noted that the Town of Groton does not charge any fee for moorings because expenses are totally funded in their town budget. Harbormaster Watts was in full support of this increase for he is greatly hampered by the present lack of resources from the commission.

New Business

Drainage Study - Church & Willow Street

A request to replace the Box Culvert Outlet at Church and Willow Street was presented to the Commission. Chairman Carreau had called CLA Engineers Inc. on July 3, 2014 to confirm the scope of work to be accomplished. This is a repair and no other changes or expansion is being done. Mr. Procko made a motion that the commission does not object to the request and there are no inconsistencies with the Mystic Harbor Management Plan. Mr. Cook seconded the motion. The commission approved it.

Auxiliary Fairway Piling removal

The commission is waiting for a response from the Army Corps to see if they will fund this task as part of the dredging project.

Mystic River Yacht club

Harbormaster Watts asked the commission for their opinion for a platform float for JY 15's to be placed in the river by the Mystic River Yacht Club. The commission expressed concern about shore related issues. Restrictions might be required to address emergency access, winter storage, tackle check, and the location relative to navigation.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:31

Respectfully submitted



David Carreau, Chairman