

Mystic Harbor Management Commission
May 7, 2015 Minutes
DRAFT

The Mystic Harbor Management Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fourth District Voting Hall. Members present were Lou Allyn, (Acting Chair), Fred Allard, Rod Cook, Jack Lee, and Don Procko. Also present were Harbormaster Paul Watts, Geoff Blackwell, Tom Tetlow, David Tetlow, Karl Fransson, Bill Brissette, Anthony Edwards, Allyson Vecchiareli, Tom Blumie, Paul Bates of the Groton Harbor Commission, and Katrina Bercaw, recording secretary.

Call to Order

Acting Chairman Lou Allyn called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the April 2 meeting were presented. Two corrections suggested by Mr. Watts were made: "20 moorings" was amended to 120 moorings and "Paul Weeks" to Tom Weeks. Mr. Lee made a motion to accept which was seconded by Mr. Procko and unanimously approved.

Harbormaster Transition

Mr. Allyn thanked retiring Harbor Master Paul Watts for 12 years of dedicated service. All present responded with an enthusiastic round of applause for Paul. Don Procko, who will replace Mr. Watts June 1, was introduced to our guests. Mr. Procko can be reached at 203 987-8300.

Turning Basin Mooring Assignments

Mooring Criteria: Mr. Allyn quoted from various pages of the Harbor Commission's Management Plan, which clearly demonstrated that the turning basin is not intended to be a mooring area. Existing moorings can, however, at the discretion of the Harbor Master, be renewed or eliminated.

Guests to the meeting raised concerns about the proposed mooring plan as described in the letters they received and in the plan presented by Mr. Watts and prepared by Docko, Inc. In particular, they expressed concern that the mooring chain scope (length:depth ratio) was severely limited by the size of the triangle in which moorings could be located. The scope was below Chapman's recommended 1 1/2 times the maximum height of water. Aside from adequacy of turning space, this would be a safety concern in a gale of wind. Mr. Watts agreed that the space would be excessively crowded, and suggested moving the line delimiting it. Moving it 50 feet would provide adequate room for the existing number of moorings while leaving in excess of 150 feet of empty space in the turning basin.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
STONINGTON, CT
MAY 14 AM 8:44
CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK

Mr. Allard made a motion to have Acting Chairman Allyn contact the Stonington First Selectman to request permission to move the line delimiting the mooring area 50 feet into the turning basin for safety considerations. Mr. Cook seconded the motion, which carried.

Unfinished Business

Dredging of Auxiliary Fairway is scheduled to commence in the fall. Mr. Allyn will pursue ascertaining the location and depth of cables under the Mystic bridge, so that area can be dredged to channel depth as part of the auxiliary dredging.

The Stonington Harbormaster issued 188 Mooring Permit Renewals; reminder letters were sent to the 36 that have not yet been returned.

Buoys: Six buoys off station due to dredging were reported to USCG by Mr. Watts. The Coast Guard sent out a buoy tender and has reported that all buoys are now back on their charted locations. Mr. Allyn will talk to USCG about relocating the Ram Island Yacht Club buoy due to an East Fairway shoal obstruction and Mr. Procko will make the arrangements.

Legal Notice for pier and float at 36 Riverbend Drive: Nothing to report.

New Business

Replacement of Red Buoy #6 in East Fairway: Harbor Master Procko will look into a replacement for the buoy, which appeared to have been hit and is sunken.

Abandoned Boat Law: Public Act 14-57 concerning abandoned boats is in effect as of January 1, 2015. Tim Delgado at DEEP is knowledgeable about the law and can help people with questions.

An unclaimed derelict raft on Rosalea Drive will be disposed of. Sargent Beebe at Stonington Police will get permission to dispose of Mr. Murphy's boat which washed up on Williams Beach some time ago.

Mr. Cook moved and Mr. Allard seconded a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:50.