



Stonington Harbor Management Commission
December 12, 2022
Minutes by (Melanie Degler, Secretary)



1. Call to Order:

Chairman Spalding called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Attending: Chairman Jay Spalding, Secretary Melanie Degler, Vice Chairman Jesse Diggs, Commissioners Caleb Rose, Tori Gimple, Bruce MacKinnon, Edward Smith, Joseph Williams, and Harbormaster Eric Donch

Not in Attendance: Commissioners Stathis Manousos and Treasurer Sherm Crites

Guests: None

2. Minutes:

The Minutes of the November 2022 meeting were reviewed. Chairman Spalding will change the minutes for the administrative support to include the wording administrative tasks of taking of minutes and Online Mooring duties as deemed by Secretary Degler.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the November 2022 Minutes. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. No further discussion occurred, all in favor, motion approved.

Action Items Remaining Open:

ACTION ITEM #1: Secretary Degler will add a message to the beginning of the renewal email template to all private mooring holders to be sent on 1/30/23, stating the new mooring fee of \$100 for 2023. She will supply a draft notice to all Commissioners to review prior to posting on the renewal template in OLM.

3. Public Comment: There was none.

4. Correspondence:

In Jurisdiction:

- 24 Water Street, Boro COP Application – The application is consistent with the SHMC Plan. No motion is required as this was for informational purposes only.

Out of Jurisdiction: None

5. Treasurer's Report:

The Financial Report for November 2022 was reviewed and attached to these minutes. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Commissioner MacKinnon seconded the motion. No further discussion occurred, all in favor, motion approved.

6. Harbormaster's Report:

The Harbormaster Reports for December 2022 was reviewed and attached to these minutes. Vice Chairman Diggs made a motion to approve the Harbormaster's Report as presented. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

HM Donch is still awaiting a call back from USACE regarding the dredging needed in the channel along Sandy Point.

ACTION ITEM #2: Chairman Spalding will review his files for the ACOE contact for dredging, and supply to the HM to assist in reaching someone to speak with on our needs.

ACTION ITEM #3: Harbormaster Donch will contact DEEP to discuss potential future commercial moorings from Wequetequock Cove to Barn Island to Pawcatuck Point and what action the Commission should be proactively taking on a possible expansion including environmental impact.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the abandoned O'Day sailboat owned by Jon Bayer of a Stonington address, who has not maintained the vessel, which broke free from the mooring which had been revoked by the HM for non-payment of renewal fees. The vessel washed up on the rocks in Wequetequock Cove across the channel from Goat Island. HM has contacted Mr. Bayer numerous times to have removed to no avail. Due to the impending nor'easter in the coming days, the decision was made for HM to contact Dodson Boatyard to have the vessel brought to their docks by the HM using the Harbormaster Boat then to be hauled, stored, and finally destroyed when their equipment is available to complete destruction.

- HM will again contact Mr. Bayer to obtain written documentation of ownership transferred to HM Donch.
- HM Donch will also contact DEEP for legal guidance to obtain reimbursement for costs incurred by the Commission for this vessel, including the possibility of a lien on any property Mr. Bayer owns.
- HM Donch will then contact Mr. Bayer's attorney to discuss the issue.

To note: All Commissioners and the HM felt it is very unfair for the Commission to incur any expenses for a vessel that has been knowingly abandoned and causing potential environmental issues, and any owner should be liable for the vessel and related fees.

7. Old Business:

- a) Online Mooring Update - Secretary Degler gave an update on her work with Online Moorings (OLM).
 - a. **Waitlist is now at 132 with a 9 yr. wait.**
 - b. Currently there are (4) deferrals for 2023.
 - c. (0) new Waitlist applications were added in November.
 - d. OLM company owners apologized in an email to Secretary Degler for the issues their programming caused with the September Waitlist renewals and provided a detailed email with explanations and steps to take for the test to be conducted prior to the January 30th automatic private mooring renewal emails to ensure there are no issues.
 - e. (1) canceled Waitlist applicant who never replied to calls/emails by Secretary Degler. She reinstated the applicant after speaking with him, after he had emailed the HM. Applicant then paid his 2022 fee online the same day and Secretary Degler updated all his contact information in OLM.
 - f. Setup new Gmail email account for the Commission and will notify all commercial dock builders to begin using this email to submit their correspondence and documents. Secretary Degler will provide confirmation of receipt to vendors with any email submissions and then email all Commissioners to review.
 - g. Secretary Degler has received Town approval to hire an individual to assist her with minutes and miscellaneous administrative duties under her direction. She will conduct interviews in January for February start. The Commission will pay the individual through our funds.

ACTION ITEM #4: Secretary Degler will supply Chairman Spalding with the logon details for the Gmail account for backup.

- b) Deputy Harbormaster Search:

ACTION ITEM #5: Secretary Degler will update the role profile and send to HM to submit to the Town for posting.

- c) SHMP Update: There has been no response from the State on the Plan. Chairman Spalding will reach out to Kim Czaplak at DEEP, who was previously in charge of this process and now has transferred to another department, to assist with moving the approval process along.

8. New Business:

- a) New Harbormaster Boat Name – HM said no one has ever hailed him on the VHF by the current boat's name, "Robert G". It was decided not to have a name on the stern of the new Harbormaster boat, as it is not required for these harbormaster vessels.
- b) FOI Email Issues – Secretary Degler stressed the importance of all Commissioners not having ANY conversations over emails which should be discussed at a meeting.

- If emails are sent, ALL Commissioners must be included, and these emails should be sent through the new Commission email address, so Secretary Degler can electronically file and easily compile if the Town receives an FOI request.
 - If a subcommittee is formed, they may converse between themselves and then report at the next meeting. Their email conversations are still subject to FOI compliance, but do not have to be sent to every commissioner if a review is listed in the next month's meeting minutes.
 - Telephone conversations are acceptable, unless they are recorded, and then they would need to be translated into an email and sent to all commissioners.
- c) Dinghy Dock Signs – Commissioner Williams stated he removed all signs for the winter and placed in storage to preserve their longevity.
- d) Revocation List – Secretary Degler and HM Donch will meet after the meeting to review the (12) applicants compiled from Commissioner Harbor Surveys this year, to have their moorings taken away for lack of use or non-compliance. HM will be calling the finalized list of applicants prior to the January 30th mooring permit renewals being sent by Secretary Degler through OLM.

9. Adjournment: Chairman Spalding adjourned the meeting at 8:57 pm.

Approved: 
Jay Spalding- Chairman SHMC

Date: 9 January 2023

Attachments:

- Treasurer's Report
- Harbormaster's Report

Treasurer's Report

Report Date 12/12/2022						
	Plan	Sep	Oct	Nov	YTD	Probable
<u>Funds Generated:</u>						
Balance Brought Forward:	41,389	36,532.95	36,269.30	31,098.48	41,388.53	41,388.53
Paid Moorings: Com/Pvt/Spc:	128/290/15		0/2/0		128/262/14	128/290/14
Moorings Fees	27,600		100.00		27,750.00	28,500.00
Wait List Fees	3,500		350.00	1,950.00	2,650.00	4,000.00
Miscellaneous Income:	500				0.00	0.00
Total Generated Funds:	72,989	36,532.95	36,719.30	33,048.48	71,788.53	73,888.53
<u>Operating Expense:</u>						
<u>Mooring Admin:</u>						
Mailings:	200				202.00	202.00
Telephone:	240				0.00	0.00
Online Mooring	4,600	32.72	600.12	406.74	4,689.96	5,000.00
Miscellaneous:	100				135.17	150.00
Sub-Total:	5,140	32.72	600.12	406.74	5,027.13	5,352.00
<u>Boat:</u>						
Fuel & Oil:	300		97.07		412.40	420.00
Commissioning:	2,500				1,630.00	3,000.00
Storage:	500				0.00	0.00
Maintenance/Repairs:	1,000		4,839.40		4,934.89	5,000.00
Equipment:	500	230.93	84.23		4,396.46	5,000.00
Sub-Total:	4,800	230.93	5,020.70	0.00	11,373.75	13,420.00
<u>Harbor Maintenance:</u>						
Buoy: Commission/Haul/Store:	6,000			1,616.80	6,820.39	6,820.39
Misc Service/Locker Storage:	800				880.00	1,200.00
Adjust Grid Alignment	750				1,266.00	1,266.00
Signage:	50				0.00	0.00
Sub-Total:	7,600	0.00	0.00	1,616.80	8,966.39	9,286.39
<u>Dock/Pumpout:</u>						
Dock Eqpt./Maintenance:	500				0.00	0.00
Pumpout Eqpt./Maintenance:	0				0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0				0.00	0.00
Sub-Total:	500	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<u>Administrative:</u>						
Supplies:	250				22.50	50.00
Newsletter:	3,500				4,873.82	4,873.82
Professional Services:	250				0.00	0.00
Sub-Total:	4,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,896.32	4,923.82
Total Operating Expense:	22,040	263.65	5,620.82	2,023.54	30,263.59	32,982.21
<u>Approved Projects/Capital</u>						
Replacement HM Boat	29,500				10,500.00	29,500.00
Public Access Improvement	5,000				0.00	0.00
Approved Projects/Capital	34,500	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,500.00	29,500.00
Total Designated Funds	56,540	263.65	5,620.82	2,023.54	40,763.59	62,482.21
<u>Undesignated Funds:</u>	16,449	36,269.30	31,098.48	31,024.94	31,024.94	11,406.32
<u>Notes:</u>						
Petty Cash Advance	300					

Harbormaster Report

December 12, 2022

New Mooring permits issued: 0

Moorings given up (YTD): 19

New Mooring assignments in the works: 0

Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$1525 2022 YTD = \$30,140

Have not been able to get return call or email from Army Core of Engineers regarding what steps need to be taken requesting dredging for Sandy Point channel. Still pursuing this.

There is a 22' O'day sailboat at the north end of Goat Island (Wequetequock Cove) that is becoming an issue. Mooring holder (Jon Bayer) no longer wants the vessel and can not find an inexpensive way to get rid of it. He is willing to give it away. I checked with Stonington Transfer station today, they can not take the vessel for at least another month. This vessel was an issue last winter when it ended up in Mr. Valenti's yard after a winter storm. So far I know: Dodson \$20/ft to haul (\$440), Stonington Marine Transport \$300 to haul to Transfer Station, Transfer Station \$125/ton to dispose of. Dodson estimated \$2000 to dispose of in dumpster. I am considering bringing the vessel to the old HM dock slip before it becomes an issue in Wequetequock Cove.

Stonington Marina, located in upper Wequetequock Cove, is in the beginning phase of application for as many as 40 commercial moorings in Wequetequock Cove. I have a chart from Docko of the proposed locations. I have asked them for a chart with Lat / Long so that I can compare to the existing moorings along Elihu Island.

Spoke with First Selectman. The town can “advertise” for Deputy Harbormaster position on it’s social media pages and put a notice on the bulletin board in Town Hall.

Robert G

New boat update: No update on projected delivery date. The boat being built in parallel with ours is complete and all attention will now be on our vessel.

Date to haul boat is dependant of resolution of O'Day sailboat in Wequetequock Cove.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Donch
Stonington Harbormaster