



Stonington Harbor Management Commission

Stonington Police Department Community Meeting Room
173 Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379



July 10, 2023

Minutes by Katrina Bercaw, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order: Chairman Spalding called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Attending: Chairman Jay Spalding, Vice Chairman Jesse Diggs, Treasurer Sherm Crites, Commissioners Melanie Degler, Bruce MacKinnon, Stathis Manousos, Edward Smith, Joseph Williams, Harbormaster Eric Donch, and Recording Secretary Katrina Bercaw

Not in Attendance: Tori Gimple, Caleb Rose

Guests: Sandy Fromson

2. Minutes:

The Minutes of the June 12, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner MacKinnon seconded the motion. After review of the action items, a discussion regarding approving the May 30 Special Meeting minutes in a future meeting, and attaching the Harbormaster's report, no further discussion occurred. Voted on approving the minutes with those amendments, motion passed with all in favor.

Action Items remaining open:

ACTION ITEM #1: Harbormaster Donch is awaiting a return call from DEEP to discuss potential future commercial moorings.

ACTION ITEM #2: Chairman Spalding will contact the Stonington PZC as well as the Town attorney regarding Lockwood Marina's history with the Town.

ACTION ITEM #3: Chairman Spalding will contact DEEP to advise them that there may be updates to the Stonington Harbor Management Plan.

ACTION ITEM #4: Commissioner Gimple will continue to follow up on her request for a meeting with the Town engineer regarding the East Side Inner Breakwater project, as no reply has been received.

New action item:

ACTION ITEM #5: Commissioner Crites will go by to see the Town engineer regarding the history of the previous East Side Inner Breakwater project.

3. Public Comment:

Sandy Fromson, a resident of Stonington Commons, shared a letter regarding what she described as a 27-day overstay at the transient dinghy dock, and that there was a minor oil spill in the parking lot. Harbormaster Donch stated that the spill was properly reported to the Fire Department. Commissioner Degler shared that several of the commissioners have boats on moorings, and use and monitor the dinghy dock. They haven't seen issues. The sign on the dock says: Transient Dock. Dinghies only. No overnight use. No

swimming. The vessel in question was not at the dock overnight. No action taken.

4. Correspondence:

- **In Jurisdiction:**

- Harbormaster Donch received a thank you note from Mark Spano, along with a donation toward the work of the Harbor Commission

- **Out of Jurisdiction:** none

5. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Crites

See attached. Expenses include 4 mooring buoys and a number of items needed to commission and outfit the new boat. \$20,000 has been set aside toward future public access or other needs. Commissioner Degler made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.

6. Harbormaster's Report:

The Harbormaster's June 2023 Report was reviewed and attached to these minutes: There is an increasing number of groundings related to the Sandy Point shoaling. The USCG is coming to review buoy placement. The new boat is working well. Mooring whips are helpful (Commissioner Diggs sent out photographs showing them).

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Harbormaster's Report as presented. Commissioner Degler seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.

7. Online Mooring Update: Commissioner Degler reviewed details in the report, which is attached. She noted that documented vessels can now register with their same number in CT – the number will be a variant of CT US-XXXX. She noted that those from the waitlist offered a mooring would lose their spot this winter if they still don't have a vessel.

8. Old Business:

A. Newsletter distribution - Nearly all hard copies have been distributed. QR labels that link to the newsletter will be posted wherever there was a box for newsletters. Commissioner Degler has received comments that some like receiving the newsletter as an attachment in their email. Vice Chairman Diggs shared a history of newsletter production expenses, which have increased dramatically over the years.

B. Deputy Harbormaster appointment - Chair

- i. The appointment letter is at the governor's office, and is expected to take approximately three weeks for approval

C. East Side Inner Breakwater Project Update - no news at this time.

9. New Business:

Harbormaster Donch frequently receives inquiries for transient dockage for 18-foot+ launches, but there is little available. Such a dock would provide a way for people to come by sea to visit the town.

Whalen's Wharf and the sewer dock were suggested as possibilities. This is an ongoing need, and thus has been discussed before, but a satisfactory solution has not yet been determined. A number of committees and agencies might be involved, including the waterfront commission, which manages what goes on above the high tide line. Vice Chairman Diggs suggested a working group to pursue the project.

ACTION ITEM #6: A working group consisting of Commissioners Williams, Crites, and MacKinnon will explore the options to create transient dockage.

10. Adjournment: Chairman Spalding adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Approved:  Date: 8/14/2023

Attachments:

- Treasurer's Report
- Harbormaster's Report
- OLM Report

Report Date 7/10/2023						
	Plan	Apr	May	Jun	YTD	Probable
Funds Generated:						
Balance Brought Forward:	32,022	33,163.82	29,765.49	51,502.85	32,022.38	32,022.38
Paid Moorings: Com/Pvt/Pub:	128/280/15		123/140/9		128/303/14	128/280/15
Mooring Fees:	47,400		32,650.00		49,650.00	51,000.00
Wait List Fees:	2,675		450.00		625.00	1,000.00
Miscellaneous Income:	0				100.00	100.00
Total Generated Funds:	82,097	33,163.82	62,865.49	51,502.85	82,397.38	84,122.38
Operating Expense:						
Mooring Admin:						
Mailings:	200				0.00	200.00
Telephone:	0				0.00	0.00
Online Mooring:	5,250	2,055.02		396.96	4,176.72	5,250.00
Miscellaneous:	200				0.00	200.00
Sub-Total:	5,650	2,055.02	0.00	396.96	4,176.72	5,650.00
Boat:						
Fuel & Oil:	800				0.00	800.00
Commissioning:	3,000				625.00	3,000.00
Storage:	0				0.00	0.00
Maintenance/Repairs:	500				0.00	500.00
Equipment:	500				1,092.54	2,000.00
Sub-Total:	4,800	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,717.54	6,300.00
Harbor Maintenance:						
Buoy: Commission/Haul/Store:	7,500		1,100.00	3,616.58	4,716.58	7,500.00
Misc Service/Locker/PO Box:	1,000	85.00		196.00	598.17	1,000.00
Adjust Grid Alignment:	1,000				0.00	1,000.00
Signage:	100				0.00	100.00
Sub-Total:	9,600	85.00	1,100.00	3,812.58	5,314.75	9,600.00
Dock/Pumpout:						
Dock Eqpt./Maintenance:	500				0.00	500.00
Pumpout Eqpt./Maintenance:	0				0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous:	0				0.00	0.00
Sub-Total:	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Administrative:						
Supplies:	250				53.16	250.00
Newsletter:	5,200		4,772.34	48.29	4,820.63	4,825.00
Professional Services:	1,500	125.00			500.00	750.00
Sub-Total:	6,950	125.00	4,772.34	48.29	5,373.79	5,825.00
Total Operating Expense:	27,500	2,265.02	5,872.34	4,257.83	16,582.80	27,875.00
Approved Projects/Capital						
Replacement HM Boat	17,000	1,133.31	5,490.30	1,763.96	20,333.52	21,000.00
Public Access/Insurance Reserve	20,000			20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Approved Projects/Capital	37,000	1,133.31	5,490.30	21,763.96	40,333.52	41,000.00
Total Designated Funds	64,500	3,398.33	11,362.64	26,021.79	56,916.32	68,875.00
Undesignated Funds:	17,597	29,765.49	51,502.85	25,481.06	25,481.06	15,247.38

Harbormaster Report

July 10, 2023

Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$925 2023 YTD=\$51,300

Sandy Point shoaling:

- Towboat reports approx 12 tows this season for grounded vessels

- Seatow reports zero tows but 3-4 groundings on incoming tide that waited to float off, also they have escorted 3-4 vessels through on request

- USCG ATON to meet me on the water Thursday (7/13) to look at adjusting the Green "5", Green unnumbered, and Green "7" cans

I have been making an effort in the upper harbor to get boaters to use the channel instead of coming through the mooring field.

Old "Green 21" buoy. USCG ATON group did not pick up buoy. Waiting to hear further from them

SPD has established a procedure to address vessels that are abandoned or need to be removed. Officers Rob Sundman and Ed Cullen are my assigned points of contact.

Emergency response drill scheduled for 6/22 was canceled due to weather.

Harbormaster Boat

Still working to find an optimal propeller.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Donch
Stonington Harbormaster

Online Mooring Report

Status	Count	Flags	Count	Wait List	Count	Wait
Approved	309	Renewal Issues	5	Mooring Wait List	109	8 years
Wait Listed	95	Potential Moves	2			
Wait List Hold	14					
Renewal Under Review	2					
Application Under Review	2					
Application Incomplete	1					

(2) Waitlist Applications since last meeting. (2) Mooring Renewals Under Review still have not purchased new vessels - HM is in contact and will pursue payment or removal of mooring. (1) Deferred moved to new mooring assignment (22-M). (2) Application Under Review - waiting on CT DMV Reg for new purchase, all other requirements are met pending approval of DMV Reg. (1) Application Incomplete - ES not in system and not cooperating with requirements.

HM is now handling issues with applicant and relayed he is mailing \$100 check and still trying to address CT Reg issues.

(10) Individuals will be contacted in August and removed from Waitlist Deferred Status if no vessel has been purchased by 9/1/23 before WL Renewals are sent on 9/15/23. No issues with OLM system this month.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Melanie S. Degler](#)

SHMC Commissioner and Mooring Administrator

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