



# Stonington Harbor Management Commission

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



**September 11, 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, Tori Gimple, Joseph Williams, Harbormaster Eric Donch, Deputy Harbormaster Ethan Palmer, and Recording Secretary Katrina Bercaw

**Not in Attendance:** Commissioners Bruce MacKinnon, Stathis Manousos, Caleb Rose, Edward Smith

**Guests:** Paula and Brent Woodward

2. **Minutes:**

The Minutes of the August 14, 2023, meeting were reviewed and minor amendments suggested. Commissioner Degler made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Commissioner Crites seconded the motion. After review of the action items, no further discussion occurred. 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 DEEP to advise them that there may be updates to the Stonington Harbor Management Plan.

**ACTION ITEM #3:** Commissioner MacKinnon will investigate options for the proposed buoys in the transient anchorage.

3. **Public Comment:** Brent Woodward described a boating incident in which his vessel hit a rock while he believed himself to be in the channel. Harbormaster Donch offered to take Mr. Woodward out on the HM boat to show him where the rock he is aware of is located. He also offered to run through the area with the sidescan sonar to check for any other obstructions.

4. **Correspondence:**

- **In Jurisdiction:**

- Borough drainage project at Weyland Wharf - Chairman Spalding shared a copy of the project drawings. Commissioner Crites made a motion that the project is consistent with the Stonington Harbor Management Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Diggs, and passed with all in favor.

- **Out of Jurisdiction:**

- The Pawcatuck River Harbor Management Commission extended an invitation to their first meeting, which will be on November 13 at 5 p.m. at the Stonington Police Station.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Crites**

Attached report was reviewed. 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 September Report was reviewed and is attached to these minutes. The Deputy Harbormaster is now approved to drive the boat. Precautions were issued regarding the potential for Hurricane Lee to come near. Harbormaster Donch has recommended that vessels in transient anchorage leave the anchorage by September 14. Harbormaster and Commissioner Degler will send an email to suggest boat owners prepare for the potential blow.

Commissioner Diggs 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. The mooring wait list renewals will be sent out this month.

#### **8. Old Business:**

A. East Side Inner Breakwater Project Update: Commissioner Gimple met with the First Selectman, the two Town engineers, and the new Town grant writer to discuss ideas for possible funding, including considering staging the effort. The Town is supportive, though with needs on many fronts. It was recommended that the permit be applied for toward being "shovel ready" at time of grant application.

B. Transient Dockage for short-term visitors and dinghy space: The working group consisting of Commissioners Williams, Crites, and MacKinnon reported that they met to review a survey of the East side of the harbor to identify all spots that could conceivably accommodate a dinghy dock. They identified six, and are researching these areas. They plan to work with the Waterfront Commission and other stakeholders once they've identified potential areas.

C. Transient Anchorage marking: no news

#### **9. New Business:**

A. The Commission's October meeting will be in the Borough Meeting Hall on Church Street at 7pm Tuesday, October 10, due to the Monday holiday.

B. Harbormaster Donch suggested having a heavy mooring available for emergencies in the outer harbor. Estimated cost is about \$5,000. Agreed that it would be a useful capital improvement.

**10. Adjournment:** Chairman Spalding adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Approved: Jay Spalding

Date: 13 Nov 2023

Attachments:

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

Report Date 9/11/2023	Plan	Jun	Jul	Aug	YTD	Probable
<b>Funds Generated:</b>						
Balance Brought Forward:	32,022	51,502.85	25,481.06	24,213.67	32,022.38	32,022.38
Paid Moorings: Com/Pvt/Pub:	128/280/15		0/9/0		128/312/14	128/316/14
Mooring Fees:	47,400		900.00		50,500.00	51,900.00
Wait List Fees	2,675		25.00		700.00	3,200.00
Miscellaneous Income:	0				100.00	100.00
<b>Total Generated Funds:</b>	<b>82,097</b>	<b>51,502.85</b>	<b>26,406.06</b>	<b>24,213.67</b>	<b>83,322.38</b>	<b>87,222.38</b>
<b>Operating Expense:</b>						
<b>Mooring Admin:</b>						
Mailings:	200				0.00	200.00
Telephone:	0				0.00	0.00
Online Mooring	5,250	396.96	83.13	112.59	4,372.44	5,250.00
Miscellaneous:	200				0.00	200.00
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>5,650</b>	<b>396.96</b>	<b>83.13</b>	<b>112.59</b>	<b>4,372.44</b>	<b>5,650.00</b>
<b>Boat:</b>						
Fuel & Oil:	800		394.51	325.64	720.15	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
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>394.51</b>	<b>325.64</b>	<b>2,437.69</b>	<b>6,300.00</b>
<b>Harbor Maintenance:</b>						
Buoy: Commission/Haul/Store:	7,500	3,616.58		648.00	5,364.58	7,500.00
Misc Service/Locker/PO Box:	1,000	196.00		484.00	1,082.17	1,020.00
Adjust Grid Alignment	1,000			500.00	500.00	1,000.00
Signage:	100				0.00	100.00
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>9,600</b>	<b>3,812.58</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,632.00</b>	<b>6,946.75</b>	<b>9,620.00</b>
<b>Dock/Pumpout:</b>						
Dock Eqpt./Maintenance:	500				0.00	500.00
Pumpout Eqpt./Maintenance:	0				0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0				0.00	0.00
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>
<b>Administrative:</b>						
Supplies:	250				53.16	250.00
Newsletter:	5,200	48.29			4,820.63	4,820.00
Professional Services:	1,500			125.00	625.00	750.00
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>6,950</b>	<b>48.29</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>125.00</b>	<b>5,498.79</b>	<b>5,820.00</b>
<b>Total Operating Expense:</b>	<b>27,500</b>	<b>4,257.83</b>	<b>477.64</b>	<b>2,195.23</b>	<b>19,255.67</b>	<b>27,890.00</b>
<b>Approved Projects/Capital</b>						
Replacement HM Boat	17,000	1,763.96	1,714.75		22,048.27	22,050.00
Add To Capital, Insurance Reserve	20,000	20,000.00			20,000.00	20,000.00
<b>Approved Projects/Capital</b>	<b>37,000</b>	<b>21,763.96</b>	<b>1,714.75</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>42,048.27</b>	<b>42,050.00</b>
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>64,500</b>	<b>26,021.79</b>	<b>2,192.39</b>	<b>2,195.23</b>	<b>61,303.94</b>	<b>69,940.00</b>
<b>Undesignated Funds:</b>	<b>17,597</b>	<b>25,481.06</b>	<b>24,213.67</b>	<b>22,018.44</b>	<b>22,018.44</b>	<b>17,282.38</b>
<b>Notes:</b>						
Petty Cash Advance	300					
Capital & Insurance Reserve	20,000					

## **Harbormaster Report**

September 11, 2023

Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$950      2023 YTD=\$52,250

All vessels anchored in the transient anchorage area have been warned to watch the track of Hurricane Lee.

Previously identified approx 24' sailboat "Freya", anchored west of mooring 17-S owner has been contacted. Email communication has been established but owner is never fast to reply. He was notified on Sept 9 that his vessel needs to be out of the anchorage by Thursday, Sept 14.

The 2 masted schooner "Sophia Christina" that is alternating between anchoring in Stonington Harbor and Napatree area has also been informed that his vessel needs to be out of the anchorage by Thursday, Sept 14. He plans to move the vessel within the next 2 days.

"Moonraker" is another vessel that has been in the transient anchorage for greater than 1 week. That vessel is planning to move today.

One apparently abandoned inflatable remains at the dinghy dock. CT DEEP was unable to run the NY registration number. It does not have a current registration sticker. I have asked SPD if they can assist

Special Olympics Sailing Regatta was unfortunately called off due to fog. Due to limited visibility conditions and not being able to see inbound traffic, the racing was called off for safety reasons.

### **Harbormaster Boat**

The boat will be hauled out if Hurricane Lee appears to be a threat.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Donch  
Stonington Harbormaster

Status	Count	Flags	Count	Wait List	Count	Wait
Approved	313	Renewal Issues	3	Moorings Wait List	117	8 years
Wait Listed	104	Potential Moves	5			
Wait List Hold	13					
Renewal Under Review	1					
Application Under Review	1					
Wait List Application Under Review	2					
Vessel Change Under Review	1					

- (3) new Waitlist Applications since last meeting
- WL Renewals will be sent on 9/15/23
- Calls will be made this week to those on Deferred List to inquire of vessel, assignment for 2024 before renewals are sent on Friday, 9/15
  - HM is trying to reach the (3) renewal registration issues-all have paid though
  - (18) Moorings given up for 2023 to date
  - Potential Move Request:
    - Too much rolling
    - Closer north in Harbor, no reason given-VM left
    - Closer to SBA-VM left no availability on east side for a number of years, unless one given up
    - Too far to travel from Don's Dock-has had mooring for a number of years, question need
    - Vessel change from power to 38' sailboat, can accommodate move/new assignment before end of season to have gear moved for next season
  - (2) Winter stick issues-VMs left twice and HM relayed if no response, will revoke mooring and individuals will bear cost for gear removal
    - (1) vessel/mooring found not in system and HM spoke to individual related to size of sailboat on mooring and requested paperwork for billing
      - Commissioner mooring surveys for this season due to M Degler this month
      - Greenwich, CT Harbor Mooring Administrator contacted me to discuss their potential use on Online Mooring, referral from Matt Caloura, OLM owner
        - (1) issue with OLM since last meeting-Move Flag category had cancelled mooring holders listed, could not delete, program issue resolved by OLM

Respectfully submitted,

**Melanie Degler**

SHMC Commissioner and Mooring Administrator

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