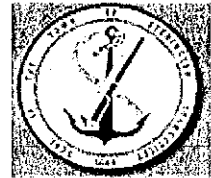




# Stonington Harbor Management Commission

August 10, 2020

Minutes by *(Melanie Degler, Secretary)*



## 1. Call to Order:

Vice Chairman Diggs called the virtual meeting to order at 7:03 PM. The virtual meeting was held via WebEx with public call in availability. The Commissioners listed below were on the WebEx.

**Attending:** Chairman Spalding, Treasurer Crites, Secretary Degler, Vice Chairman Diggs, Commissioners McKinnon, O'Neill, Rose, Smith, Williams, Harbormaster Donch and Assistant Harbormaster Estabrooks

**Guest Call-in:** Mooring Holder - Cynthia Bates

**Absent:** Commissioner Anderson

## 2. Minutes:

The Minutes of the July 13, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Chairman Spalding took over leading the meeting from Vice Chairman Diggs when he joined during the review of the Action Items.

Noted Changes to the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes:

1. The approval of the Wait List Mooring Fee Proposal should have read: Commissioner Smith made a motion to begin charging a **new \$10.00 yearly fee to remain on the Waiting List**. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. *Treasurer Crites was not in favor of the fee, the rest of the Commissioners present were in favor*, motion approved to implement a \$10.00 yearly fee to remain on the waiting list.
- Harbormaster Donch will submit the July Harbormaster's Report to Chairman Spalding to include in the final minutes posted on the Town website.
- The minutes should also reflect the Harbormaster's Report as the July Report, not June 2020.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the July 2020 Minutes with noted changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. No further discussion occurred, all in favor, motion approved.

The following **ACTION ITEMS** remain open:

**ACTION ITEM #1:** *This is an on-going discussion and will remain open until further notice due to the pandemic.*

- Harbormaster Donch again contacted Michael Peyton, CT DEEP and left a message in August 2020, to review the permits for the four channel buoys located in the north area of the harbor.

**ACTION ITEM #2:**

- Vice Chairman Diggs contacted SNS Electric to recheck their repair to the electrical outlet at the Harbormaster's/ Police Boat Dock since water is still leaking into the electrical system on the Dock. Pending additional repair with update at the September meeting.

## 3. Public Comment:

Cynthia Bates shared her concern of an increase in motorboat noise in the area of Sandy Point and near her home on Elihu Island (see her attached email).

Discussion was held regarding an enforceable noise ordinance. The Commissioners agreed such an ordinance would be difficult to measure and enforce.

Harbormaster Donch agreed to coach all noise offenders going forward. He also encouraged Ms. Bates to take photographs of any offender's boats with their registration numbers, and to contact the Stonington Police for enforcement of her concern.

The Commission also agreed to add a reminder on this topic to next year's annual newsletter.

#### **4. Correspondence:**

##### **In Jurisdiction:**

- Cynthia Bates Email (see above under Public Comment).

**Out of Jurisdiction:** There was none.

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

The Financial Report for July 2020 was reviewed and attached to these minutes.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Diggs. No further discussion occurred, all in favor, motion approved.

##### **ACTION ITEM #3:**

- Commissioner Williams will send Treasurer Crites the bill for the new Transient Dock Signs for reimbursement.

##### **ACTION ITEM #4:**

- Treasurer Crites will add new line items to the Treasurer's Report for:
  - Public Access Initiative
  - Emergency Fund

#### **6. Harbormaster's Report**

The Harbormaster's Report for August 2020 was reviewed. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Harbormaster's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. No further discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

##### **ACTION ITEM #5:**

- Harbormaster Donch will contact the Coast Guard Aides to Navigation Division for "Keep Off" signage on the navigational aid at the end of the Borough Breakwater to discourage and assist in enforcing diving/ swimming from the navigational tower.

##### **ACTION ITEM #6:**

- Vice Chairman Diggs and Treasurer Crites will attend the August 13, 2020 meeting of the Stonington Police Commission to again discuss the need for an increase in the time the Stonington Police Marine Patrol Boat spends in Stonington Harbor and to

offer to fund additional monies to support the increased presence.

**7. Old Business:**

1. SHMP Revision Status
  - a. All Commissioners' comments will be incorporated into the latest revision of the Plan.
  - b. The new maps, with a few minor jurisdiction clarifications, will be included as CT DEEP previously requested.

**ACTION ITEM #7:**

- Chairman Spalding will contact Kim at CT DEEP for further review of the latest revisions.

2. Fee Updates – there was no further discussion.

**8. New Business:**

- Online Mooring mariner notifications
  - o The Commission discussed and decided not to send mariner notifications of storms. since there are plenty of other avenues providing this information.

**ACTION ITEM #8:**

- Secretary Degler will contact the Town to discuss adding a direct link to Online Mooring on the Commission's page on the Town website.

**ACTION ITEM #9:**

- Secretary Degler will add the link to the Commission's page on the Town website to the Stonington Harbor page on Online Mooring.

**9. Adjournment:**

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Crites. No further discussion occurred, all in favor, motion approved for adjournment at 8:57 pm.

Approved:   
*Jay Spalding, Chairman SHMC*

Date: 9/14/2020

**Attachments:**

- Treasurer's Report
- Harbormaster's Report
- Email - Cynthia Bates

## SHMC FINANCIAL REPORT - 2020

	Plan	May	Jun	Jul	YTD	Probable
<b>Funds Generated:</b>						
Balance Brought Forward:	24,730	27,384.44	24,559.04	23,021.03	24,730.48	24,730.48
Paid Moorings: Com/Pvt/Pub:	128/263/14			123/30/0	123/234/14	128/263/14
Mooring Fees:	26,230	0.00	0.00	13,800.00	24,280.00	26,230.00
Miscellaneous Income:	100			262.80	262.80	100.00
<b>Total Generated Funds:</b>	<b>51,060</b>	<b>27,384.44</b>	<b>24,559.04</b>	<b>37,083.83</b>	<b>49,273.28</b>	<b>51,060.48</b>
<b>Operating Expense:</b>						
<b>Mooring Admin:</b>						
Mailings:	600				0.00	600.00
Telephone:	0				0.00	0.00
Online Mooring:	4,000	118.40	773.35	28.10	1,985.79	4,000.00
Miscellaneous:	0				134.00	0.00
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>118.40</b>	<b>773.35</b>	<b>28.10</b>	<b>2,119.79</b>	<b>4,600.00</b>
<b>Boat:</b>						
Fuel & Oil:	200				0.00	200.00
Commissioning:	2,500	2,707.00			2,707.00	2,500.00
Storage:	0				0.00	0.00
Maintenance/Repairs:	150				0.00	150.00
Equipment:	250				0.00	250.00
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>2,707.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,707.00</b>	<b>3,100.00</b>
<b>Harbor Maintenance:</b>						
Buoy: Commission/Haul/Store:	5,000		764.66	1,421.12	3,158.48	5,000.00
Misc Service/Locker Storage:	500				0.00	500.00
Adjust Grid Alignment:	1,000				0.00	1,000.00
Signage:	0				0.00	0.00
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>764.66</b>	<b>1,421.12</b>	<b>3,158.48</b>	<b>6,500.00</b>
<b>Dock/Pumpout:</b>						
Dock Eqpt./Maintenance:	0			174.80	174.80	0.00
Pumpout Eqpt./Maintenance:	0				0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous:	0				0.00	0.00
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>174.80</b>	<b>174.80</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Administrative:</b>						
Supplies:	0				443.94	0.00
Newsletter:	3,400				209.46	3,400.00
Professional Services:	1,000				0.00	1,000.00
<b>Sub-Total:</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>653.40</b>	<b>4,400.00</b>
<b>Total Operating Expense:</b>	<b>18,600</b>	<b>2,825.40</b>	<b>1,538.01</b>	<b>1,624.02</b>	<b>8,813.47</b>	<b>18,600.00</b>
<b>Approved Projects/Capital</b>						
New SNW Buoys	10,000				0.00	10,000.00
New Anchor/Channel Buoys	1,000				0.00	1,000.00
Addition to Boat Reserve	5,000				5,000.00	5,000.00
Public Access Improvement Study	2,000				0.00	2,000.00
<b>Total Project/Capital</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>18,000.00</b>
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>36,600</b>	<b>2,825.40</b>	<b>1,538.01</b>	<b>1,624.02</b>	<b>13,813.47</b>	<b>36,600.00</b>
<b>Undesignated Funds:</b>	<b>14,460</b>	<b>24,559.04</b>	<b>23,021.03</b>	<b>35,459.81</b>	<b>35,459.81</b>	<b>14,460.48</b>
<b>Notes:</b>						
Petty Cash Advance	300					
HM Replacement Boat Reserve	25,000					

## Harbormaster Report

August 6, 2019

New Mooring permits issued: 0	Moorings being given up (this month): 1
New Mooring assignments in the works: 2	
Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$	2020 YTD = \$

Storm Isaias – no reports of damage in the harbor. One report of a potentially “dragged” mooring.

Due to Dodson decision to not rent any transient moorings this season, the anchorage area has seen much more traffic. This is also carrying over to the transient dingy dock. No reports of any issues with either.

Due to the warmer than usual weather, there is more swimming from the inner breakwater. This leads to more climbing on the navigational aid there. There is currently not even a sign requesting people to “Keep Off”. SHMC needs to formally request USCG install some type of signage to help keep people off the structure.

Robert G

- Made repairs to the cabin hatch. Will explore replacement of hatch this winter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Donch  
Stonington Harbormaster

## Monday mornings are so nice and quiet in Little Narragansett Bay

1 message

**Cindy Bates**

To: Jay Spalding <jspalding19@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 5:27 PM

Hello Jay Spalding,

My mom, Nancy, and I are big fans of Harbor Happenings to the extent that we had copies printed at Fedex on glossy paper, one for each house on Elihu Island. And when just printing the cover in color made the cost exorbitant, the customer service guy only charged me as if it were all B&W. They look so good! And every article, interesting and informative.

Back in Natick, Mass., after a third weekend at the island, I'm so much more aware of noise -- trucks, leaf blowers, lawn mowers. Having just listened to a guy on NPR talk about the benefits of silence (or at least quieter places) — 12 minute listen — I decided to write.

<https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/takeaway/segments/where-have-all-quiet-places-gone>

It is so great to see so many more boats out in 2020 than 50 years ago, when I was ten. On one of my daily swims from our dock in the part of Little Narragansett Bay opposite Barn Island, I thought to myself that this is a sign that more people have more time and discretionary income now than then — a good thing. Some boats are, however, very loud and I wonder if the Harbor Commission has any jurisdiction on this issue. I looked up the town's noise ordinance and can't tell if recreational boating would somehow fall under that (but since the noise of each passing boat is of limited duration, probably not), but we on Elihu Island can definitely hear lots of boat noise, limited pretty much, thank goodness, to weekends.

Some of this boat noise will diminish when you successfully implement the Slow and No Wake area at the west end of Sandy Point. Thank you. I have noticed that personal watercraft are particularly loud. And we can feel Aphrodite coming before we hear her. <https://blog.jetskiplus.com/coast-guard-requirements-for-personal-watercraft/>

I notice that the Westerly Harbor and Mystic River Harbor Management plans include the ability to control noise but that neither the Stonington Harbor nor the Pawcatuck River plans mention noise. So I wonder if the noise issue could eventually be addressed in areas east of Stonington Point and north of Sandy Point.

It occurs to me that Sandy Point's status as a nature preserve, might also be a consideration for reducing the noise of boat traffic on its northern shore — for both the birds and other wildlife as well as the people who visit — especially where the channel comes so close to the island.

Monday mornings are so nice and quiet after the weekend traffic in Little Narragansett Bay, I can almost hear the seagulls on Sandy Point, the background noise of my childhoods on Elihu Island, punctuated as it was by seaside bells and horns (and shoreside train whistles).

Thank you again for all you do to manage all things boat in Stonington Harbor. This email is just to put forth the idea of looking for ways of reducing the noise of boat traffic in Little Narragansett Bay. No complaints. : )

Sincerely,

Cindy Bates (Stephen's sister, Bruce Biddle's niece, Donald Wesson's cousin)