



Stonington Harbor Management Commission

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



August 14, 2023

Minutes by Katrina Bercaw, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order: Chairman Spalding called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attending: Chairman Jay Spalding, Vice Chairman Jesse Diggs, Treasurer Sherm Crites, Commissioners Melanie Degler, Bruce MacKinnon, Edward Smith, Tori Gimple, Caleb Rose, Harbormaster Eric Donch, and Recording Secretary Katrina Bercaw

Not in Attendance: Joseph Williams, Stathis Manousos

Guests: Robert Scala

2. Minutes:

The Minutes of the July 10, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Gimple made a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Smith 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 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.

The **Minutes from the Special Meeting** on 5/30/2023 were reviewed. Commissioner MacKinnon made a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Degler seconded the motion. No further discussion occurred. Motion passed with all in favor.

3. Public Comment: none

4. Upper Harbor Traffic and Recreational Use Issues: Robert Scala, Commodore of Wadawanuck Club, reported that they just hosted a successful multi-state regatta, and expressed concern about ongoing space for the youth to sail. The Harbormaster said that although he may be seeing more boat traffic, no new moorings have been added. It was reiterated that the RIYC launches must stay within speed limit when towing boats back.

5. Correspondence:

- **In Jurisdiction:**

- 196 Water Street (Wadawanuck Club) Dredging project COP application. Maintenance dredging of the swim area. For information only, no action taken.
- The appointment letter for Deputy Harbormaster Palmer has been received from the Governor's

office, making the appointment official.

- **Out of Jurisdiction:**

- 7 River Road Pawcatuck - out of district, application was forwarded.

5. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Crites

Attached report was reviewed. Commissioner Degler made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.

6. Harbormaster's Report:

The Harbormaster's August 14 Report was reviewed and is attached to these minutes. It was noted that the new Deputy Harbormaster has not yet been out in the boat due to his travel schedule. Commissioner MacKinnon made a motion to approve the Harbormaster's Report as presented. Commissioner Diggs 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. OLM is now going smoothly. The mooring wait list renewal bills will be sent via email in September.

8. Old Business:

A. East Side Inner Breakwater Project Update - Commissioner Gimple met with the Town engineers regarding the East Side Inner Breakwater project. They provided documentation of the history and the previous COPs. The original breakwater project COP expired in June 2020. Commissioner Gimple is following up on some missing paperwork with a goal to submit an updated application.

B. Transient Dockage: A working group consisting of Commissioners Williams, Crites, and MacKinnon is exploring options to create transient dockage. The group met and assigned research tasks; they plan to provide information next month.

9. New Business:

Harbor Management Plan and Ordinance review: Proposal regarding Commercial Mooring areas:

Section 6 F

F. Commercial Moorings. Commercial moorings shall be limited to a maximum of 35 percent of the total deep draft moorings in the harbor. The Harbor Management Commission may modify this percentage.

Proposed revision:

F. Commercial Moorings. Commercial moorings shall be limited to a maximum of 35 percent of the total deep draft moorings in the harbor. The Harbor Management Commission may modify this percentage. Commercial Moorings shall also be limited to placement in special anchorage areas as defined by CFR Title 33 Chapter 1, Subchapter 1 Anchorages, Part 110 Anchorage Regulations, Subpart A Special Anchorage Areas, 110.50 Stonington Harbor, Conn.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve this revision in the Ordinance. Treasurer Crites seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

G. Marking transient anchorage area: Commissioner Degler reported that some vessels are anchoring too close to the mooring field and sometimes directly in the mooring field. It was suggested that adding four more buoys to mark the transient anchorage area could help alleviate confusion as to the boundaries of the transient anchorage versus the mooring field. Commissioner Crites moved that we add four collared buoys with pyramid moorings to the anchorage area. Commissioner MacKinnon seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed with all in favor.

ACTION ITEM #4: Commissioner MacKinnon will investigate options for the proposed buoys.

10. Adjournment: Chairman Spalding adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Approved: Jay Spalding Date: 9/11/2023

Attachments:

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

Report Date 8/14/2023						
	Plan	May	Jun	Jul	YTD	Probable
<u>Funds Generated:</u>						
Balance Brought Forward:	32,022	29,765.49	51,502.85	25,481.06	32,022.38	32,022.38
Paid Moorings: Com/Pvt/Pub:	128/280/15	123/140/9		0/9/0	128/312/14	128/316/14
Mooring Fees:	47,400	32,650.00		900.00	50,500.00	51,900.00
Wait List Fees	2,675	450.00		25.00	700.00	3,200.00
Miscellaneous Income:	0				100.00	100.00
Total Generated Funds:	82,097	62,865.49	51,502.85	26,406.06	83,322.38	87,222.38
<u>Operating Expense:</u>						
Mooring Admin:						
Mailings:	200				0.00	200.00
Telephone:	0				0.00	0.00
Online Mooring	5,250		396.96	83.13	4,259.85	5,250.00
Miscellaneous:	200				0.00	200.00
Sub-Total:	5,650	0.00	396.96	83.13	4,259.85	5,650.00
Boat:						
Fuel & Oil:	800			394.51	394.51	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	394.51	2,112.05	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		196.00		598.17	1,020.00
Adjust Grid Alignment	1,000				0.00	1,000.00
Signage:	100				0.00	100.00
Sub-Total:	9,600	1,100.00	3,812.58	0.00	5,314.75	9,620.00
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	4,820.00
Professional Services:	1,500				500.00	750.00
Sub-Total:	6,950	4,772.34	48.29	0.00	5,373.79	5,820.00
Total Operating Expense:	27,500	5,872.34	4,257.83	477.64	17,060.44	27,890.00
<u>Approved Projects/Capital</u>						
Replacement HM Boat	17,000	5,490.30	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
Approved Projects/Capital	37,000	5,490.30	21,763.96	1,714.75	42,048.27	42,050.00
Total Designated Funds	64,500	11,362.64	26,021.79	2,192.39	59,108.71	69,940.00
<u>Undesignated Funds:</u>	17,597	51,502.85	25,481.06	24,213.67	24,213.67	17,282.38

Harbormaster Report

August 14, 2023

Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$0 2023 YTD=\$51,300

Sandy Point shoaling:

- Thursday (7/13) met with USCG ATON tender to adjust Sandy Point channel markers. CG was unable to free the anchors for the #5 and "TRUB" buoy.
- Thursday (7/20) met with USCG ATON tender and Greenhaven Marine Services mooring barge. Jay Douglas was able to free the ATON anchors. USCG moved the #5, "TRUB" and #7 buoys to realign the channel. The temporary "TRUB" buoy next to the "Rock" buoy is now a permanent #5A buoy.
- The channel realignment seems to have helped. There have been fewer groundings due to vessels being able to stay NE of the worst shoaling and remain in the channel.

Sunday (8/13) Received call from a transient sailboat that they had dragged anchor and hit a vessel on a mooring. Moored vessel received scratches on hull. Transient vessel damaged 4 stanchions and a handrail. Both parties advised to fill out and submit DEEP boating accident report.

Currently there is an approx 24' sailboat anchored west of mooring 17-S. I have owner name and address (Rhode Island) but no contact information. Trying to get info from Newport PD.

Have one transient vessel, 2 masted schooner, that is alternating between anchoring in Stonington Harbor and Napatree area. He knows the 9 day stay rule and uses it to his advantage. Westerly police are also aware of his habit this year and are enforcing the 7 day stay rule on their side.

Continuing the 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 says they will pick up buoy next time they are in the area.

Special Olympics Sailing Regatta will be a one day event Sept 9.

Harbormaster Boat

Correct propeller installed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Donch
Stonington Harbormaster

Mooring Permit



Calendar

Add

Status	Count
Approved	314
Wait Listed	100
Wait List Hold	13
Renewal Under Review	1
Application Incomplete	1
Rejected	1
Canceled	57
Canceled (never approved)	136

Flags	Count
Renewal Issues	3
Potential Moves	5

Wait List	Count	Wait
Mooring Wait List	113	8 years

- (6) Waitlist Applications since last meeting.
- (1) Renewal Under Review - HM is in contact with applicant to determine his vessel purchase to maintain the mooring.
- (1) Application Incomplete - HM is in contact with applicant who has not paid for his East Side mooring and does not have a CT Reg.
- (1) Vessel Change Approved - HM contacted applicant for copy of new CT Reg.
- (1) Mooring Given Up since last meeting - no vessel for two years on mooring, mooring revoked per HM for non use.
- OLM supplied a list of automatic emails for the Administrator to review to ensure correct for September Waitlist Renewals to be sent.
- Discussion w/ Austin from the STN Shellfish Commission on OLM use for online permits and payments. Provided OLM contact info.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie S. Degler

SHMC Commissioner and Mooring Administrator