



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



March 11, 2024

Minutes by Katrina Bercaw, Recording Secretary

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Spalding called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Attending: Chairman Jay Spalding, Vice Chairman Jesse Diggs (by phone), Treasurer Sherm Crites, Commissioners Melanie Degler, Tori Gimple, Stathis Manousos (by phone), Caleb Rose, Edward Smith, Harbormaster Eric Donch, Deputy Harbormaster Ethan Palmer, and Recording Secretary Katrina Bercaw

Not in Attendance: Joseph Williams

Guests: Ben Tamsky, Mark Zagol, Monica Hallisey, Hannah Reams, Ariana Doenges, Fiona Fulton

2. **Minutes:**

The Minutes of the February 12, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Degler 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 will update the transient anchorage permit, which includes the number of buoys.

Ongoing effort: Harbormaster Donch is working with DEEP on the best position for the buoys.

3. **Public Comment:**

Ben Tamsky (contact: btamsky@stonington-ct.gov) Board of Selectmen offered to be a liaison

4. **Special Purpose Moorings:** (see below for submissions)

a. NESS Mark Zagol submitted a request (attached) for renewing their six special-purpose moorings. Adult renters have been coming to use the boats. School groups have also increased their use. Commissioner Degler praised the clarity of their spreadsheet reporting mooring usage. Treasurer Crites made a motion to approve the request. It was seconded by Commissioner Rose, all spoke in favor, motion passed.

b. SHYC Monica Hallisey submitted a request (attached) to renew their six moorings, with details on their use. Commissioner Degler noted that programs open to the public are not clear on their website. Ms. Hallisey noted in response that they logged 301 non-member hours this year. Commissioner Diggs made a motion to approve the request for six moorings. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

c. Wadawanuck - No word received at the time of the meeting regarding a potential request to renew three moorings. Chairman will contact them to request they apply before and come to present at

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SALLY DUPLICE
TOWN CLERK

5. Correspondence:

- **In Jurisdiction:**
 - none
- **Out of Jurisdiction:**
 - none

6. Online Mooring Update: Commissioner Degler reviewed details in the report, which is attached. It was a busy month, with 303 renewals approved and 33 incomplete. Mooring waitlist is now 61, which is much shorter than in previous years. Ten possible spots were relinquished. Dodson's and Don's Dock said that they do not have slips for skiffs. This was the first time potential mooring holders said they couldn't accept a mooring due to lack of access to get to it. This reinforces the Commission's efforts concerning establishing a way to provide more accommodations for dinghies, as access to moorings is currently a limiting factor. Reiterated that USCG-documented vessels must also get CT registration "Certificate of Decal" if the vessel is in CT waters for greater than 60 days.

7. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Crites

The monthly Financial Report was reviewed and is attached to these minutes. Commissioner Smith 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.

8. Harbormaster's Report: Harbormaster Donch

The Harbormaster's Report was reviewed and is attached to these minutes. Commissioner Degler made a motion to approve the Harbormaster's Report as presented. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. All in favor, motion was approved.

9. Old Business:

A. East Side Inner Breakwater Project Update: Commissioner Gimple reported that on March 1 Connecticut Port Authority opened a "Small Harbor Improvement Program" with a grant deadline of July 1. Town support is critical to meet this deadline. Commissioner Gimple has reached out to the Town grant writer to request assistance to Commissioners Gimple and Manousos in preparing a grant application, and has requested copies of recent successful applications. The 2017 proposal was approved, but not realized. Costs have since escalated and the condition of the breakwater has deteriorated. The recent major storm increased the public's interest in improvements and seeking things they can do. It was suggested that the Commission could provide a template for letters of support for the proposed project, and that it could be helpful to hire someone to help put the proposal together by July.

B. Transient and Dinghy access working group update: Treasurer Crites reported on possibilities for an expanded dinghy dock near the Commons in the south harbor (there is a dinghy dock, but no overnight storage), if the Commission gets management of the dock. Harbormaster Donch said the North harbor project centers on the seawall around the dog park. Launch limits affect feasibility. The project would need dinghy access, storage, and parking for access vehicles in the dog park. He has had a number of meetings with interested parties, and one is planned which includes the Town selectmen.

Multiple limits clearly factor in assessing capacity.

C. Transient Anchorage marking: Commissioner MacKinnon is awaiting permit approval per action item #1 above.

10. New Business:

- A. Newsletter will be reduced to 16 pages to cut the cost. Commissioner Degler will share a mockup at the next meeting, and send assignments to each Commission member. The newsletter will include a QR code and be posted on the Town website and the Stonington Harbor Facebook page.
- B. Commissioner Diggs noted an article in The Day on 3/10/24 about a \$500,000 grant opportunity from Senator Blumenthal's office for Stonington Harbor. Harbormaster Donch will seek more information.
- C. Harbormaster Donch noted that the Waterfront Commission is putting together a list of all the public access points in the Town.
- D. The Harbormasters are establishing a Harbormaster emergency mooring. Harbormaster Donch will procure estimates on cost. Considered inviting yacht clubs back in to have guest moorings for their members. They wouldn't need shoreside support, since visiting yachts would have their own dinghy. It was remembered that some yacht clubs had moorings they didn't use, which were eventually rescinded. Withdrawn after discussion.

11. Adjournment: Chairman Spalding adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

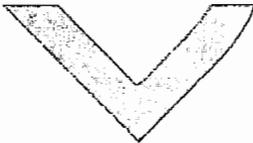
Approved: _____

Date: _____

Attachments:

- Treasurer's Report
- Harbormaster's Report
- OLM Report
- NESS special moorings application
- SHYC special moorings application

Report Date 3/11/2024	Plan	Jan	Feb	Mar	YTD	Probable
Funds Generated:						
Balance Brought Forward:	22,129	22,129.27	23,379.27		22,129.27	22,129.27
Paid Moorings: Com/Pvt/Pub:	128/344/14					
Mooring Fees:	53,975				0.00	
Wait List Fees:	2,000				0.00	
Miscellaneous Income:	600	1,250.00	325.00		1,575.00	
Total Generated Funds:	78,704	23,379.27	23,704.27	0.00	23,704.27	22,129.27
Operating Expense:						
Mooring Admin:						
Mailings:	0		111.00		111.00	
Telephone:	0				0.00	
Online Mooring:	5,500		90.00		90.00	
Miscellaneous:	200		440.32		440.32	
Sub-Total:	5,700	0.00	641.32	0.00	641.32	0.00
Boat:						
Fuel & Oil:	1,500				0.00	
Commissioning:	2,500				0.00	
Storage:	0				0.00	
Maintenance/Repairs:	500				0.00	
Equipment:	3,000				0.00	
Sub-Total:	7,500	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Harbor Maintenance:						
Buoy: Commission/Haul/Store:	9,400				0.00	
Misc Service/Locker Storage:	1,080		670.60		670.60	
Adjust Grid Alignment:	500				0.00	
Signage:	0				0.00	
Sub-Total:	10,980	0.00	670.60	0.00	670.60	0.00
Dock/Pumpout:						
Dock Eqpt./Maintenance:	500				0.00	
Pumpout Eqpt./Maintenance:	0				0.00	
Miscellaneous:	0				0.00	
Sub-Total:	500	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Administrative:						
Supplies:	100				0.00	
Newsletter:	2,500				0.00	
Professional Services:	1,500				0.00	
Sub-Total:	4,100	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Operating Expense:	28,780	0.00	1,311.92	0.00	1,311.92	0.00
Approved Projects/Capital						
Insurance Reserve:	10,000				0.00	
New Anchorage Buoys:	12,000				0.00	
Capital Reserve:	10,000				0.00	
Remove Abandoned Boat:	5,000		20.00		20.00	
Approved Projects/Capital	37,000	0.00	20.00	0.00	20.00	0.00
Total Designated Funds	65,780	0.00	1,331.92	0.00	1,331.92	0.00
Undesignated Funds:	12,924	23,379.27	22,372.35	0.00	22,372.35	22,129.27



Harbormaster Report

March 11, 2024

Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$7555 2024 YTD=\$9130

Sailing vessel "Freya". Ownership paperwork received from CT DEEP on 2/27/24. Dodson Boatyard stepped mast and removed the engine and all fuel. The vessel was hauled on Monday 2/4/24. Tuesday, 2/5/24, the vessel was placed on a Town flatbed trailer and hauled to the transfer station. Stonington Highway Department and Solid Waste Department worked together to dispose of the vessel.

Harbormaster Boat

Boat hauled 1/18/24.

Boat still at Rowmarine. They expect to be finished with the boat next week.

P-Tuck Marine Sewing is ready to build house enclosure canvas once the boat returns from Rowmarine.

Expect to launch boat in April.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Donch
Stonington Harbormaster



o **Melanie S. Degler**
From: mdegler16@gmail.com
To: Melanie S. Degler, Katrina Bercaw

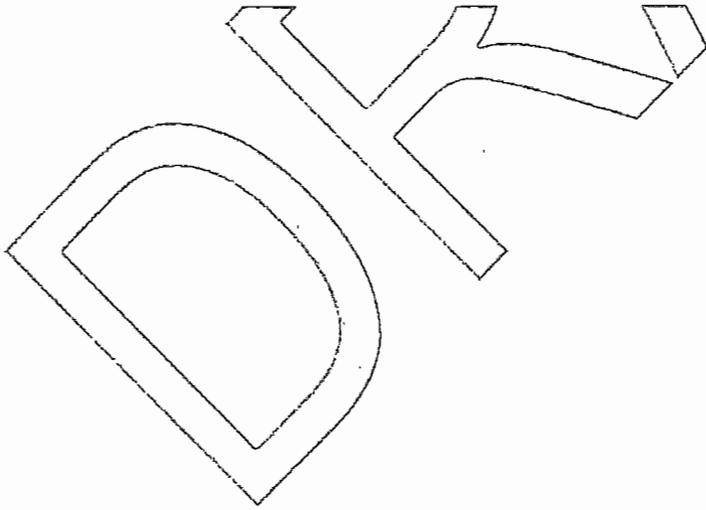


Mooring Permit

Status	Count	Flags	Count	Wait List	Count Wait
<u>Approved</u>	303	Renewal Issues	27	Mooring Wait List	61 2 years
<u>Wait Listed</u>	61	Potential Moves	4		
<u>Wait List Hold</u>	2				
<u>Renewal Under Review</u>	6				
<u>Application Under Review</u>	2				
<u>Renewal Incomplete</u>	33				
<u>Application Incomplete</u>	13				

- (2) new WL applications since last meeting
- (33) individuals still have not paid and will give until end of month to pay and then will begin calls on 4/1/24
 - o Discussion on whether to implement interest charges for non-payments after 4/1/24
 - o Too much time spent on sending emails and making calls for repeat offenders
- (10) more assignments give - 2 declined, no longer needed mooring, moved off WL since declined assignment
- (50) total new assignments this year
- (23) open moorings on grid, but OLM showing more and will be reviewing to update OLM
- (8) moorings given up so far this year
- (2) moorings considering giving up and gave until June to decide, but still have to pay renewal fee - vessels were sold
- Dodson's will be entering their 2023 inspection data within the next couple of months
- A number of new assignments are having difficulty finding slips for their launch vessels to reach their moorings
- Tracking mooring holders who have only provided CG documentation in the past and not CT DMV Certificate of Decals which are now required

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie S. Degler
SHMC Commissioner and Mooring Administrator





Stonington Harbor Management Commission
152 Elm Street
Stonington, CT 06378
Attention: Jay Spalding, Chairman

March 5th, 2024

Dear Commission Members,

The New England Science & Sailing Foundation (NESS) is pleased to apply once again for special purpose moorings to support our community sailing programs in 2024. We are very grateful for the Commission's support in the past as these moorings have been the cornerstone of our keelboat community sailing programs. For the 2024 season, we respectfully request 6 special purpose moorings to support our community programs. This is the same amount that was allocated to us for the past six years. Adding our personal mooring, NESS will have 7 moorings in the harbor for 2024.

NESS's mission revolves around education and community access. One of our four core values is inclusiveness to provide access for on the water learning for all students regardless of ability or financial need. We are not a member driven organization.

In 2023, our 6 special purpose moorings provided access to 858 unique students for a total of 1,516 student hours on the water. Our sonar rentals doubled which although a small number is a big step in the right direction of offering public access to sailing.

NESS is always looking for new and innovative ways of giving access to the water and these moorings are a huge part of that. Each and every year we have been so appreciative of the SHMC and their support of our efforts.

Lastly, I understand that with the expansion of the Breakwater Pier and private moorings associated with the INN has taken away some of the open space for these special purpose moorings. I know that the commission has been working on a solution to this and I look forward to hearing those ideas and would be happy to help in any way that I can.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Zagol
Managing Director of Operations and Sailing

NESS Mooring Usage 2021-2023

2021

Groups	Subgroup	Number of People	Total Use	Student-hours
Adult Sailing-Sonars		68	123	368
	Adult LTS	27	54	189
	Adult Intermediate	21	42	126
	Sonar Rental	14	21	47
	Adult Checkout Sail	6	6	6
Discovery Sail		26	26	52
Private Lessons		68	88	184
New London Programs		18	36	90
Adaptive Sailing		2	12	24
School Programs		80	80	80
Afterschool Programs		10	20	25
Summer Programs		232	232	436
NESS Fest		44	44	44
Special Olympics		8	24	96
Homeschool Programs		22	22	44
TOTAL		578	707	1443

2022

Groups	Subgroup	Number of People	Total Use	Student-hours
Adult Sailing-Sonars		96	189	622
	Adult LTS	52	104	364
	Adult Intermediate	28	56	196
	Sonar Rental	9	22	55
	Adult Checkout Sail	7	7	7
Discovery Sail		14	14	28
Private Lessons		65	92	184
Adaptive Sailing		2	20	40
School Programs		258	258	258
New London		22	44	88
Summer Programs		224	224	448
NESS Fest		50	50	50
Homeschool Programs		36	36	72
TOTAL		794	900	1790

2023

Groups	Subgroup	Number of People	Total Use	Student-hours
Adult Sailing-Sonars		138	183	464
	Adult LTS	33	66	231
	Adult Intermediate	12	24	84
	Sonar Rental	18	30	56
	Adult Checkout Sail	3	3	3
	Sonar Social	60	60	90
Discovery Sail		9	9	14
Private Lessons		72	84	168
Adaptive Sailing		7	12	24
School Programs		318	318	318
New London		10	10	10
Summer Programs		218	218	405
Homeschool Programs		67	67	97
Miscellaneous		19	19	40
TOTAL		858	908	1516

Application to the Stonington Harbor Management Commission for Special Purpose Moorings

Name: Stonington Harbor Yacht Club (SHYC)
SHYC c/o Monica Hallisey, Fleet Captain
9 Stonington Commons 32 Water Street Stonington, CT 06378
860-535-0112 office@shyc.us

SHYC owns a 27' Albin, 17' Boston Whaler, and 6 Ideal 18 sailboats. SHYC charts 2 additional Ideal 18s for a fleet total of 8.

This application is being filed with the Stonington Harbor Management Commission by Stonington Harbor Yacht Club (SHYC) to continue its use of six (6) Special Purpose Moorings in Stonington Harbor pursuant to Article 4, Section 4 of the Harbor Management Plan Ordinance adopted on October 9, 2012.

As in 2023, SHYC requests the use of six moorings in close proximity to the Stonington Commons dock area for its fleet of six Ideal 18 boats.

For the reasons set forth below, SHYC respectfully submits that its application meets the five criteria for approval of Special Purpose Moorings by the Commission set forth in the Ordinance.

Background

SHYC was established in 2002 under the Connecticut Nonstock Corporation Act. Pursuant to the terms of the Act (Sections 1002(21) and 1026(a)(2)), only nonprofit corporations may be established under the Act. In addition, SHYC has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code. Thus, SHYC is a not-for-profit organization under both Connecticut and U.S. Federal law.

As stated in its Bylaws, a primary purpose of SHYC shall be the advancement of boating and "the support of the local community, and [to] protect and broaden access to the natural resources of Stonington Harbor". SHYC's vision emphasizes extending "its on-water activities to include seeking improved access to the water and useful relationships with local outside entities."

In order to advance the vision, SHYC designs its water related activities to encourage participation by the broader community. As described in detail below, SHYC has made both its facilities and programs available to the public on a regular basis. SHYC is committed to continuing and expanding this inclusive approach and is seeking Special Purpose Moorings to support its ability to do so.

Analysis of Eligibility for Special Purpose Moorings: The Ordinance sets forth five criteria for Special Purpose (SP) Moorings in Article 4, Section 4. We will discuss each in turn.

1. Mooring Availability

SHYC is appreciative for the Commission's consideration and support of our sailing, education and other on the water programs. Our continued ability to utilize our vessels as a means to reach out to, work with, and serve members of the community is largely due to the Commission's support in granting the Special Purpose Moorings. We are honored to be among a small group to have received Special Purpose Mooring permits that support our endeavors with the community.

2. Provides Access to the Water for the General Public

SHYC understands the importance of providing public access to our shared waterfront in a responsible manner. As reported in prior years to the Commission, SHYC has increased access to the water for the general public in ways that relate directly to this application.

In 2023 SHYC executed several notable events with participation of non-club members attending in several areas. Examples of past programming and current 2024 event planning are included below.

SHYC, with help from its members and local volunteers, has made a fleet of eight Ideal 18s available to support a number of important programs for the general public, including the Special Olympics (both weekly training and the actual competition), the Ideal Women's Sailing program, the Spring and Fall Racing Series, Wounded Warrior Day on the water and impromptu sailing and racing clinics throughout the boating season.

The Special Olympics remains an especially good example of SHYC's vision for serving the community. SHYC has been active in this program for over ten years. Illustrative of SHYC's commitment, the Club provides its Ideal 18 fleet starting in late June for Special Olympic sailor training. Special Olympic athletes and their coaches (2 students and 2 instructors per boat) have the use of eight Ideal 18 boats for practice every Tuesday evening for two or more hours each week. The training kicks off with a barbecue on the clubhouse patio (all food and beverages provided by SHYC Ideal Women and member volunteers that execute the event) and the athlete training culminates with a weekend regatta in mid-September. In addition to the fleet of Ideal 18 boats, SHYC contributes coordination with other local sailors, the Club race committee, boat, and additional support craft and member volunteers to support the organizing entity for a weekend of competition. As many as eighty total volunteers from the Stonington area participate in and support this regatta program.

SHYC has also promoted the Harbor's availability to the general public by making its on the water programs available to non-members. SHYC plans to continue this openness by leveraging two of the most successful SHYC on the water programs again during 2024. In the early part of the season, we anticipate commencing the Sunday morning "Learn to Sail and Race for Fun Clinics" program bringing sailors of all levels together on the Commons docks to share sailing tactics and techniques before heading out on the water to gain practical experience in the Ideal 18s. These clinics have proven to be very informative and have provided beginner and experienced sailors another opportunity to increase their comfort and skill level in varying weather conditions with highly competent skilled local sailors. As advertised on the SHYC public web page, community members interested in what it is like to sail on an Ideal 18 are invited to contact the club and SHYC will make arrangements with one of their qualified skippers to go for a sail.

The Ideal Women's sailing program on Thursday evenings begins in May. The Ideal Women's program has encouraged a large number of women both non-members and members to get out on the water in the Club's Ideal 18s. In the past few years, the Ideal Women reached out to our local military family members and invited them to discover Stonington Harbor from the water. The Ideal Women will continue this outreach effort in 2024 and have plans for a Women on the Water (WOW) event and a regatta with other Ideal 18 women sailors this year.

The SHYC fleet of Ideal 18s is regularly used during the Stonington Dinghy Club Wednesday night summer series. It is common to see the SHYC fleet of Ideals competing with Club members taking non-member friends and family out to enjoy an evening race. Uniquely situated with a large out of doors venue in the middle of the Borough, SHYC extends an invitation to all participants for Après Sail dinner and beverages 'On the Bricks' and hosts the end of season awards event in August. The weekly summer Wednesday Night Race series is entering its 56th year and the Club enthusiastically looks forward to hosting Stonington Dinghy Club again for the 2024 series.

Other on-the-water programs that SHYC is proud of include our hosting the Wounded Warriors. For five straight years through 2019, the Club's fleet of Ideal 18s was the center point for a day-out on the water with Wounded Warriors. Club members offered use of their personal craft as well to provide a range of suitable and safe craft to get our heroes out on the water. The Covid pandemic temporarily halted this outstanding offering but in August of 2023, SHYC once again hosted the Wounded Warrior Family day, with over 42 Warriors and friends and family taking part. The feedback from both the participants and the SHYC volunteers deemed the event a huge success with anticipation for a repeat in 2024.

SHYC enthusiastically supports other harbor and community organizations. Past examples include providing Ideal 18 use for local area benefit regattas, including providing race committee and support craft. In addition to working toward worthy causes, these events expand our interaction with the larger sailing community on Fishers Island Sound and increase visibility of contributions from Stonington Harbor as a whole. SHYC plans to continue to seek opportunities in 2024 to support community needs.

SHYC continued to support local small boat racing during the shoulder seasons. In 2023, we ran a spring and fall series regularly attended by Lasers, Sunfish and Ideal 18s representing members and non-members from across the local community. For 2024, the SHYC spring series commences in April and the fall format will resume in mid-September. SHYC provides the race committee manned by a Principle Racer Officer (PRO), our committee boat Galatea II, a safety boat Acis and qualified skippers and crew as needed. An after-race reception for all participating sailors and their guests occurs at the Clubhouse.

As a supporter of the One Harbor concept, working with NESS, Wad Club, the Commission, SSBA, Dodson Boat Yard and Don's among others, is key to our public access strategy. SHYC invites the Commission to suggest ways in which we can expand these relationships and work with the Commission to this end.

3. Promotes Use of the Water for Recreational, Educational or Research Use

In addition to the relevant discussion in section 2, SHYC actively promotes recreational and educational use of the water for both its members and the general public. Throughout the year, SHYC hosts educational programs on various boating topics including seamanship, safety, recreation and environmental concerns. Educational and Informational events are planned with broad appeal to the community in mind. In 2023/24, SHYC hosted a number of sessions with a few highlighted below:

In person educational presentation in April 2023- "Charting Cruises, Planning and Provisioning" led by skilled local sailors Ann and Scott Kraft.

In person educational event in April 2023- Cruising Club of America (CCA) seminar on "Cruising Couples/Crew Safety" led by Anne Kolker (CCA National Events Chair) and Scott Kraft.

In person informational presentation in May 2023- "Leading the Change"- The campaign journey to the Annapolis to Newport Race by an all women's skipper/crew boat.

In person educational event in June 2023- CT Safe Boater's Certificate Course taught by Rick Pianka of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

In person instructional presentations held weekly in June 2023- "Sailing Terminology, Skills, and Spinnakers"

In person educational event in January 2024- UCONN Professor Emeritus Frank Bohlan presented "Fishers Island Sound Weather Today...and Tomorrow?"

In person sailing discussion group held weekly from Feb. 2024-April 2024: Dinner series with relevant topics requested by attendees.

In person informational/inspirational presentation in Feb. 2024- Lindsay Gimple, our own Stonington SSBA and SHYC Ideal sailor provided an update on her quest to the Paris 2024 Olympics sailing on a Nacra 17.

4. Person/Entity is Not-for-profit Organization

As noted in the "Background" paragraph above, SHYC is a not-for-profit organization under both Connecticut and U.S. Federal law.

5. Intended/Actual Use

As stated at the outset of this application, SHYC intends to use the Special Purpose Moorings for its six Ideal 18 sailboats. Permitting of 6 Special Purpose moorings to SHYC directly supports the continuation and expansion of the Commission's intent to provide water access for the general public and promotes the use of the water for recreational and educational purposes as described in sections 2 and 3 above.

Conclusion

SHYC believes that it fully satisfies the criteria referenced in the Ordinance for Special Purpose moorings, and that granting the application will advance the Commission's articulated objectives for Stonington Harbor. SHYC would be pleased to answer any questions or provide any further information that the Commission would consider useful in considering this application.

This application has been executed on behalf of SHYC by Monica Hallisey, an elected Board member as SHYC Fleet Captain.

By: Monica Hallisey SHYC Fleet Captain
1 March 2024