



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



November 13, 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, Commissioners Melanie Degler, Bruce MacKinnon, Tori Gimple, Stathis Manousos, Joseph Williams, Harbormaster Eric Donch (via phone), Deputy Harbormaster Ethan Palmer, and Recording Secretary Katrina Bercaw

Not in Attendance: Treasurer Sherm Crites, Edward Smith, Caleb Rose

Guests: none

2. Minutes:

The Minutes of the October 10, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Commissioner MacKinnon made a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Williams 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 offer to take Brent Woodward out to further search for the reported rock or obstruction. [see attached Harbormaster Report]

ACTION ITEM #2: Harbormaster Donch will update the transient anchorage permit, which includes the number of buoys. [see attached Harbormaster Report]

3. Public Comment:

none

4. Correspondence:

- **In Jurisdiction:**

- 2024 Meeting Schedule

- 2nd Monday of the month at 7 p.m. except October will be on the 2nd Tuesday and no meeting in December

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- **Out of Jurisdiction:**

- none

5. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Crites

Report sent in advance of the meeting was reviewed and is attached to these minutes. Commissioner Degler made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Commissioner MacKinnon seconded the motion. No further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.

6. Harbormaster's Report:

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 McKinnon seconded the motion. After discussion of details, all in favor, motion was approved.

7. Online Mooring Update: Commissioner Degler reviewed details in the report, which is attached. The waitlist is at 70, with no new applications this month. Online Mooring is now linked to DMV regarding vessel registration. Along with Harbormaster Donch, Commissioner Degler attended the Pawcatuck Harbor Commission meeting and provided information on Online Mooring.

8. Old Business:

A. Meeting attendance update: The Selectman's Office said it is up to each Commission to establish an attendance rule if desired. Chairman Spalding noted that having a quorum has not been a problem. There is an option to phone in to a meeting, but in-person participation is important when possible.

ACTION ITEM #3: Chairman Spalding will include the phone-in number on the Agenda.

B. East Side Inner Breakwater Project Update: Commissioner Gimple reported that she spoke with Bill Heiple, previously of Santec, who had compiled the original report and had sent her the documents. She asked the Town if any changes are needed in order for the application to be signed and submitted to the appropriate people at the DEEP. Getting the permit renewed is the first step in an effort to raise funds for the project.

C. Transient Dockage for short-term visitors and dinghy space: The working group consisting of Commissioners Williams, Crites, and MacKinnon reported that they are concentrating on possibilities of expanding the condominium dock at Stonington Harbor Yacht Club. Commissioner Williams researched and provided background information on moored vessel access in other harbors in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Cost estimates to provide and install two 20x40 docks ranged from \$70,000 to \$142,000. Staging the project by doing one dock at a time is an option. Pursuing a "Boating Infrastructure" grant may also be an option, since it is targeted for providing public access. The effort seeks a way to offer launch service from the proposed new dinghy dock to vessels moored in the outer harbor.

D. Transient Anchorage marking: Commissioner MacKinnon is awaiting approval of the permit requested by Harbormaster Donch.

9. New Business:

A. none presented this month

10. Adjournment: Chairman Spalding adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Approved: Jay Spalding

Date: 1/10/2024

Attachments:

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

SHMC FINANCIAL REPORT - 2023

Report Date 11/17/2023						
	Plan	Aug	Sep	Oct	YTD	Probable
<u>Funds Generated:</u>						
Balance Brought Forward:	32,022	24,213.67	22,018.44	22,433.90	32,022.38	32,022.38
Paid Moorings: Com/Pvt/Pub:	128/280/15		0/1/0	0/3/0	128/315/14	128/316/14
Moorings Fees:	47,400		100.00	300.00	50,950.00	51,400.00
Wait List Fees	2,675	>>>>>>x	350.00	550.00	1,550.00	5,500.00
Miscellaneous Income:	0		500.00		600.00	600.00
Total Generated Funds:	82,097	24,213.67	22,968.44	23,283.90	85,122.38	89,522.38
<u>Operating Expense:</u>						
<u>Mooring Admin:</u>						
Mailings:	200				0.00	0.00
Telephone:	0				0.00	0.00
Online Mooring	5,250	112.59	34.54	759.99	5,166.97	6,000.00
Miscellaneous:	200				0.00	0.00
Sub-Total:	5,650	112.59	34.54	759.99	5,166.97	6,000.00
<u>Boat:</u>						
Fuel & Oil:	800	325.64		150.57	870.72	1,000.00
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	1,250.00
Sub-Total:	4,800	325.64	0.00	150.57	2,588.26	5,750.00
<u>Harbor Maintenance:</u>						
Buoy: Commission/Haul/Store:	7,500	648.00			5,364.58	7,500.00
Misc Service/Locker/PO Box:	1,000	484.00			1,082.17	1,082.00
Adjust Grid Alignment	1,000	500.00			500.00	500.00
Signage:	100				0.00	0.00
Sub-Total:	9,600	1,632.00	0.00	0.00	6,946.75	9,082.00
<u>Dock/Pumpout:</u>						
Dock Eqpt./Maintenance:	500				0.00	0.00
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	0.00
<u>Administrative:</u>						
Supplies:	250				53.16	53.16
Newsletter:	5,200				4,820.63	4,820.00
Professional Services:	1,500	125.00		125.00	750.00	1,000.00
Sub-Total:	6,950	125.00	0.00	125.00	5,623.79	5,873.16
Total Operating Expense:	27,500	2,195.23	34.54	1,035.56	20,325.77	26,705.16
<u>Approved Projects/Capital</u>						
Replacement HM Boat	17,000				22,048.27	22,050.00
Add To Capital, Insurance Reserve	20,000				20,000.00	20,000.00
Approved Projects/Capital	37,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	42,048.27	42,050.00
Total Designated Funds	64,500	2,195.23	34.54	1,035.56	62,374.04	68,755.16
<u>Undesignated Funds:</u>	17,597	22,018.44	22,933.90	22,248.34	22,748.34	20,767.22
<u>Notes:</u>						
Petty Cash Advance	300					
Capital & Insurance Reserve	20,000					

Harbormaster Report

November 13, 2023

Deposits to SHMC account since last report: \$2325 2023 YTD=\$54,675

Deputy Harbormaster Palmer had a successful day supporting the Mystic River Fireworks celebration of the Mystic Aquarium 50th anniversary. Despite less than perfect weather conditions.

Harbormasters Donch and Palmer supported the Stonington Borough Lobster Pot Christmas Tree construction by transporting lobster pots, lights and other equipment from Westerly (Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce) to Stonington Borough this morning.

Two vessels being removed from harbor using “Abandoned Vessel” section of the CT General Statutes:

- Sailing vessel “Freya” has been at anchor in the transient anchorage area for several months
- Inflatable at Stonington Commons transient dock with old NY registration

Stonington PD has information for both vessels and police reports have been created as required for removal of the vessels. Working with Tim Delgado from CT DEEP to ensure all actions are taken as required to remove the vessels.

In response to action item #1: I will be contacting Mr. Woodward to go for a ride on the HM boat to look for the object he struck in the Sandy Point Channel. Water conditions are clear and hopefully we will be able to see something.

In response to action item #2: I spoke with Yolanda Cooley at CT DEEP. She has sent me a copy of our existing “Transient Anchorage” marker permit. We will need to submit a new permit application to add the four new markers to the existing permit. She sees no issue with the request and anticipates the new application will be easily approved once submitted.

Harbormaster Boat

Boat will be hauled out once abandoned vessels have been removed from the harbor.

Boat will be taken to Rowmarine (vessel builder in Bristol, RI) for moving of the leaning posts at a time agreeable to Rowmarine.

Boat will be shrink wrapped at stored at Don’ Dock

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Donch
Stonington Harbormaster

All

Mooring Permit

One Year Special Purpose Permit

Commercial Mooring

Mooring Permit

Bertha

Add

Status	Count	Flags	Count	Wait List	Count	Wait
Approved	318	Renewal Issues	4	Mooring Wait List	70	7 years
Wait Listed	68	Potential Moves	4			
Wait List Hold	2					
Application Under Review	1					
Application Incomplete	35					
Rejected	2					
Canceled	59					
Canceled (never approved)	147					
Unknown	1					

- (20) Moorings given up to date in 2023
- No new WL applications since last meeting
- Waitlist (WL) is finally under (100) and actually at 5 years
 - (1) Deferral will have to make decision in February or be removed from WL which shows at (7) years
- (40) New assignments issued/contacted in November from WL - HARBOR IS CONSIDERED FULL
 - All future assignments from WL will only be issued when someone gives up a mooring and will be assigned to the next applicable vessel on WL
 - Remainder on WL are mostly mid to larger powerboats and under 35' sailboats
- (1) mooring found on ES not in OLM
- (2) Removed from WL for refusal of assignment
- (2) Removed from WL for no reply from numerous calls/email
- All WL renewals paid
- (1) Unknown listed on Dashboard for individual found in OLM with two moorings, (1) unassigned -waiting for callback to discuss discrepancies
- OLM admitted there is a payment "bug" with individuals paying from iPad or iPhone. Should be resolved since they are now using a third party vendor who
- Still waiting on Commissioners Rose and Manousos to submit their end of year surveys to issue final report to HM
- Attended advanced training and certification with OLM
- Coast Guard Documentation can now be viewed from applications w/link to CG BUT will only show name per CG due to privacy issues
- Attended Pawcatuck Harbor Commission with HM Donch and Chairman Spalding to offer guidance for the new members at Selectman's request

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