



Harbor Management Commission

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Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 26, 2022, 7:00 P.M.
Town Hall Meeting Room A & Zoom

1. Call to Order

Chairman Terry Stewart called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Essex Harbor Management Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Attendance

Members Present: Jeff Going, Bill Herlihy, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning, Terry Stewart, Brian Weinstein

Absent: Dave Fasulo, Deputy Harbor Master

Others Present: Matt Beers, Safe Harbor, Doug Domenie, Safe Harbor, Bill Peterson, Ivoryton Resident, Paul Riggio, Harbor Master, Rachel Smith, Safe Harbor

3. Approval of the April 2022 Meeting Minutes

The April 28, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes were reviewed.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the April 28, 2022 Regular meeting minutes.

SECONDED: John Senning, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

4. Public comment

Bill Peterson was present to request that his mooring permit be reinstated for next season. Due to the fact that he did not receive the renewal notices that were sent to him in the fall for the 2022 season, his permit expired. He was provided with copies of all of the renewal notices that were sent and he did receive the email test we sent him, so there no explanation as to why he did not receive the notices. He is taking a seasonal mooring at Safe Harbor for this season but would like his mooring permit back for next year. The request was discussed.

MOTION made by John Senning to reinstate Bill Peterson's mooring permit for next season. **SECONDED:** Susan Malan, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** It was recommended that in the future if he doesn't receive a renewal notice at renewal time to contact the Harbor Management Commission. Paul Riggio advised Betsy to place him at the top of the sabbatical list.

Matt Beers from Safe Harbor introduced Rachel Smith as the new Manager of the Safe Harbor Dauntless Marina.

5. Financial Report

Bill Herlihy provided the financial report for the Liberty Checking, Public Access, and General bank accounts, with a total funds closing balance as of May 26, 2022 of \$48,354.88.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the May 26, 2022 financial report. **SECONDED:** John Senning, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Note: The April 28, 2022 financial report as amended was approved by electronic vote on April 29, 2022.

Bill presented the invoice for HMC administrative support in the amount of \$291.05.

MOTION made by Jeff Going to approve the invoice for clerk services in the amount of \$291.05. **SECONDED:** John Senning; **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0.

6. Harbor Master Report

Paul Riggio's report included the situation regarding Bill Peterson's mooring permit as discussed earlier in the meeting.

- New Bushnell Access Wait List: Karen Paulson, 5.20.22
- New Mooring Permit Wait List: Christian Meisner, 5.5.22

Every year, the moorings and harbor marks are tweaked to make the harbor work. Adjustments needed and methods for setting were discussed. Paul is working with Matt Beers on this. The harbor will be set by looking at what works as we have done in the past. However, part of Safe Harbor's contractual requirements is to give us the GPS coordinates of the current locations. It was recommended that this be done in the fall. Adjustments needed for some of the harbor mark in North, South, and Middle Cove were also discussed. Paul will take care of what is needed.

In follow up to the emergency funding discussion at last month's meeting, Paul had a discussion with First Selectman Norm Needleman on the question of an authorized amount for Paul to spend to address an emergency situation in the harbor. A cap of \$1,000.00 was suggested and for anything beyond that Paul would reach out to Norm.

MOTION made by Terry Stewart to approve the ability to authorize the Harbor Master up to \$1,000 in an emergency funding situation and anything more than that to consult with the First Selectman for additional funding. **SECONDED:** Kit Schellens; **Discussion:** Lengthy discussion followed as to whether a \$1,000 cap would be sufficient and what a more realistic number might be. John Senning suggested a motion that the Harbor Master should be authorized to engage in any type of salvage situation at his own discretion. This issue was discussed further and it was decided to defer further action until some research can be done. John will see what Stonington does and this will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

There is a problem with silt and sand going down to the Town dock ramp from the street and possible solutions were discussed. The situation will be reviewed further.

7. Harbor Management Business

Jeff reported that all steps have been completed for the rock removal/relocation, Funding for this is in the Town account and the project should be ready to go forward after June 30, 2022.

The dredging project was discussed and continues to move forward.

Terry noted that DEEP's guidelines on the dock construction and permitting process have been added to the HMC website FAQ page. There is a need to improve awareness and educate potential dock owners and contractors as to what is involved. The guidelines will also be published in the Town's newsletter.

Terry has followed up with DEEP regarding the Mack Lane dock situation discussed at last month's meeting. It is on their radar and will be addressed.

8. Town Public Access Points

A porta potty and a trash barrel will be installed at Bushnell Access and the Town crew will be removing the tree stump.

Some of the access points are in need of mowing. Terry will contact the Town about this.

There is a boat on the north side of the floating dock at the Mack Lane public access that needs to be removed. Paul will address.

9. Harbor Management Plan Update

The Harbor Management Plan has been submitted to DEEP and ACE, with a response back from ACE. ACE has requested that we add the open and equitable mooring assignment policy to our plan in terms of how we assign moorings. Terry has done this and resubmitted the plan for them to continue their review.

It was suggested that we establish an inventory of docks in the harbor that are derelict or not permitted with the idea of asking DEEP if certain docks are not permitted if we don't already know. The question was raised as to whether this needs to be done and whether there is statutory authority for us to do this. Jeff will research the issue and this will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The Town of Old Lyme Harbor Management Commission by-laws have been reviewed. John Senning was impressed with them and now thinks having by-laws would be a good idea for us so as to give us a reference point. Terry Stewart will prepare a draft and John Senning will review.

Terry noted that \$1 million dollars is available in federal funding to study the different options to address the Hydrilla problem across the country.

10. Correspondence: None.

11. New Business

John Senning shared a copy of the Stonington Harbor Management Commission bi-annual newsletter and suggested that we do a newsletter sometime in the next six months. It was noted that information can also be shared in the Town's monthly newsletter.

An invoice was received from Dauntless Shipyard & Marina for the repair/replacement of mooring hardware in the amount of \$1,756.22.

MOTION made by Susan Malan to approve the invoice from Dauntless Shipyard & Marina in the amount of \$1,756.22. **SECONDED:** John Senning, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

A COP was received from Docko, Inc. on behalf of Patrick Smith for maintenance modification to an existing structure at 50 Crosstrees Hill Road in Essex. This has been sent to us as a courtesy; therefore, discussion can be tabled to the next meeting.

MOTION made by John Senning to table discussion on the COP until the next meeting. **SECONDED:** Kit Schellens, **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

12. Adjournment

MOTION made by John Senning to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. **SECONDED:** Kit Schellens; **Voting in Favor:** Jeff Going, Susan Malan, Kit Schellens, John Senning; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 4/0/0. **Discussion:** No further discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy McLaughlin
Recording Clerk