



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Harbor Management Commission**

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**HMC MEETING MINUTES
January 18, 2022 7:00 P.M.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, TOWN HALL - HYBRID**

To access the audio from this meeting, please use the following link:

<https://youtu.be/YFF7j0Xc6b8>

1. Call to Order

Chair Robert Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Robert Murphy, Chair; Paul Connolly, Secretary (remote); David Cole (remote); Robert Soden (joined remotely at 7:30pm); Lou Vinciguerra; Scott Mitchell, Harbor Master; and Jennifer Donahue, Clerk. Matt Dobratz and Thomas Armstrong (remote) attended as guests.

3. Citizens with Business before the Commission

Thomas Armstrong, representing the Great Hammock Beach Association, asked for the commission's support related to a grant they are applying for through the Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) to study construction of a living shoreline to mitigate erosion in the area of the Back River Bridge over Route 154. He explained that this would aid with coastal resiliency as sea level rises in the area. He asked commissioners to consider submitting a written letter of support to help them obtain the grant, which would fund the study for a design for the area but not implementation of the design. After some discussion commissioners had no objection to the study. Mr. Murphy made a motion for the HMC to write a letter of support in connection with the potential CIRCA grant at the Back River Bridge over Route 154. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 4-0-0. Mr. Armstrong left the meeting at 7:12 pm.

Matt Dobratz, who grew up in Old Saybrook, runs his commercial fishing business out of Old Saybrook and holds a State of Connecticut Tax Exemption Permit for commercial fishing but lives in Old Lyme, recently reapplied to the Ferry Dock wait list. His wife will be an Old Saybrook taxpayer by the end of the week and would he would like to then be considered as a priority on the wait list per his status as a taxpayer and tax-exempt commercial fisherman. The commission explained that the person on the wait list has to be a taxpayer and that person needs to be on the tax exempt certificate to receive priority. Commissioners asked him to update them at the February meeting regarding his situation. Mr. Dobratz then left the meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 20 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Cole made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Vinciguerra seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

5. Clerk Report

Ms. Donahue gave a brief overview of her regular written reports. She asked if she could open up 18 or more spots for kayaks for the season. Commissioners agreed to stick with 18 for now. Mr. Murphy will go to a Park & Rec meeting to gauge their interest in an expanded kayak program in other locations in town. He also noted that when he spoke with Mr. Osnato about the idea of the South Cove kayak launch ramp Mr. Osnato's group had determined it was not feasible.

Ms. Donahue also requested clarification about the approval of the draft rules for the Flats & Beaches. Commissioners discussed the draft and Mr. Vinciguerra made a motion to approve the Flats & Beaches Policies and Procedures as written. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

After reviewing the financial summary, Mr. Murphy noted that he will have ask the Board of Finance to release additional funds to the Infrastructure line to cover upcoming projects.

6. North Cove

The renewal deadline has passed; all those renewing have paid with just a handful of people with registration issues. There are potentially 15 spaces open for the upcoming season, space permitting, and the wait list stands at 74. Commissioners discussed space availability and upgrades noting that one 40+' spot is available for the season. Mr. Murphy will follow up with Mr. Tydeman to ascertain if he has acquired the larger boat he requested space for as he will have priority to upgrade as a current mooring holder over someone on the wait list. Commissioners authorized Ms. Donahue to offer spaces to the first 16 people on the wait list excepting the two applicants with 40+' boats. Should Mr. Tydeman not have a larger boat, the first of the 40+' boats on the wait list will have an opportunity to apply for the 2022 season. Applicants should be given two weeks to respond.

Discussion of the dock crane was tabled but Mr. Murphy said he received a potential offer for a winch, free of charge, for the dock crane should the commission decide to go forward.

Mr. Murphy reported that he still needs to complete the as-built submission.

Mr. Murphy reported that he executed the contract with Coastline Consulting. He will draw up a new set of parameters for the study based on the new boat information of those leaving and expected to come into the cove for the 2022 season.

7. Clothesline

Renewals are complete with two people with registration issues, one space still open and one person on hold, while the wait list stands at 25. Ms. Donahue will follow-up on the last open space.

Mr. Vinciguerra reported that he received an estimate to add the step to stair C and demolish the compromised sea wall. CRDD's price is more than expected. After discussion, commissioners asked Mr. Vinciguerra to see whether the price can be negotiated with the contractor. He also reported on the price to drive new poles at the Clothesline, which does not include the purchase of the materials or staking out the locations of the poles. Commissioners decided to put that project on hold. Mr. Mitchell will replace the one broken pole for now with material from Mr. Connolly.

8. Ferry Road

Renewals are complete at Ferry Road and the wait list stands at 25. There is one space available, not including additional spaces that may become available with the addition of the floating docks.

DEEP asked for a di minimus change based on the changes to the dock design plan, which Mr. Murphy and Mr. Soden submitted. Mr. Soden reported that it had been approved. Mr. Vinciguerra is reviewing the shop drawings. He made a couple of suggestions.

The bid for the installation was discussed. Prices for piles are significantly higher than they were two years ago.

9. Harbor Master/Dock Master Report

Mr. Mitchell had nothing to report.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to review.

11. New Business

Commissioners discussed two zoning change issues agreeing that they had no comments on either. Mr. Murphy asked Ms. Donahue to prepare a letter under his name to send to the Zoning Commission.

12. Old Business

There was no report on Online Mooring or the website.

Items b and c were tabled. Items d and e were considered earlier in the meeting.

13. Payment of Bills

Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the following bills: Connecticut Water for \$164.65 and \$61.70; North Cove Yacht Club for winter dock storage \$500; State of CT for sales and use tax, \$1,272; Online Mooring, \$312; and \$13 to the Building Department for State of Connecticut educational fees related to the building permit taken out for the Clothesline stairs. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Cole made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. seconded by Mr. Soden which was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Donahue
Clerk, OSHMC