



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Harbor Management Commission**

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**HMC MEETING MINUTES
February 22, 2022 7:00 P.M.
SECOND-FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, TOWN HALL - HYBRID**

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

<https://youtu.be/urxbczLsb0s>

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); Lou Vinciguerra; Scott Mitchell, Harbor Master (remote); and Jennifer Donahue, Clerk. Jim Gratton (remote) and Keith Neilson (remote) attended as guests.

Absent: Robert Soden

3. Citizens with Business before the Commission

Jim Gratton discussed correspondence he had sent the commission regarding his desire to be able to access Beamon Creek from his property. He is looking for guidance related to the permitting process. Mr. Murphy noted that the commission will make no recommendations but could provide a list of people it has used in the past for permitting.

Mr. Neilson from Docko was present as a representative for the Chester property in North Cove. The Chesters would like a boat lift on their dock. However, in assessing the dock, which is 25-30 years old, it was determined to need rebuilding. Mr. Neilson detailed the historical permitting for the dock and the proposed work and left the meeting. No action is required by the commission at this time but commissioners acknowledged that the project is consistent with the Harbor Management Plan.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 18 were reviewed. Mr. Cole made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Vinciguerra seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 4-0-0.

The minutes of the special meeting of January 21 were reviewed. Mr. Vinciguerra made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Connolly seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 3-0-1 with Mr. Cole abstaining because he was not present.

Mr. Murphy gave an update on Mr. Tydeman's boat purchase noting that he has been keeping the commission apprised, is under contract and is on target to be in the cove for the 2022 season.

5. Clerk Report

Ms. Donahue gave a brief overview of her regular written reports noting that it has been taking some time to go through the North Cove wait list to fill the 15 open spots – there are still 8 open. She also noted that the wait list that is online right now is not accurate due to movement of people based on eligibility for a mooring and whether or not they have declined spots or allowed their eligibility to expire.

She asked whether commissioners would like to approve changes to the Flats & Beaches application in the Online Mooring database that would give the option of waiving registrations for boats that are not required to be registered under Connecticut law. After discussion commissioners agreed that this was rare in that area and probably not necessary.

Potentially opening up more kayak spots was briefly discussed and decided against at this time. Mr. Murphy is scheduled to attend an upcoming Park & Rec meeting to discuss that group's intentions about kayaks before the commission makes any changes to its program.

Ms. Donahue noted that Mr. Gratton requested a refund for a Flats & Beaches mooring that he signed up for but no longer intends to use for the season. Commissioners granted the refund request.

Ms. Donahue noted that the commission has nearly met its revenue goal for the fiscal year.

Three 40+' boats have been skipped so far on the North Cove list. The first two were contacted. Commissioners asked Ms. Donahue to follow up with the third. The number of spaces available for 40+' boats will be revisited in the future.

6. North Cove

The wait list and renewal updates were covered under the clerk's report.

Discussion of the dock crane was tabled.

Mr. Murphy reported that he still needs to complete the as-built submission. He will also submit a letter for the expiring permit from Ferry Road. He will draft letters for Mr. Soden to review before submission.

Mr. Murphy reported that he and Mr. Connolly had met with Coastline Consulting regarding the North Cove study where they had laid out parameters. After discussion of the mooring map that Coastline submitted it was agreed that draft should also be considered in addition to length to determine spacing of boats. Mr. Murphy will try to arrange a 4:00 p.m. meeting next week so that Mr. Mitchell and any other commissioners can participate to give more feedback to the consultants.

Mr. Connolly reviewed some draft language regarding a policy for 40+' boats. Finalizing the language was put on hold until after speaking with the consultants.

7. Clothesline

The Clothesline is full for the season.

Mr. Vinciguerra reported that he has spoken with Mr. Rutan about cost reductions for the remaining projects at the Clothesline. Mr. Rutan is reviewing the suggestions.

The abutter letters for the North Cove launch ramp project were reviewed. Ms. Donahue will revise them and get them out.

Mr. Murphy noted that he included the pole replacement project in his presentation for the Board of Finance even though the project remains on hold for now.

8. Ferry Road

Renewals are complete at Ferry Road and the wait list stands at 26. There is one space available, not including additional spaces that may become available with the addition of the floating docks.

Mr. Murphy noted that Mr. Dobratz has been in contact with him regarding his paperwork for the Ferry Dock. Mr. Murphy will contact him to have things wrapped up by the March meeting.

Mr. Murphy noted that he had a signed contract from CRDD for the installation of the new floating docks and gangways. He asked Ms. Donahue to give them to the first selectman and to have him call him. Mr. Murphy reported that the docks and gangways are complete and are scheduled for delivery to CRDD by the first week in March.

9. Harbor Master/Dock Master Report

Mr. Mitchell reported that a flipped over canoe was recently retrieved by the Fire Department and that he is hearing from a number of new mooring holders.

10. Correspondence

A request from the Zoning Commission regarding a petition to amend the Old Saybrook Zoning Regulations for Animal Care Services was discussed. Commissioners agreed they had no comment on the request. Mr. Murphy asked Ms. Donahue to prepare a letter to the Zoning Commission.

11. New Business

The boat lift for the Chester property was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Commissioners considered the request by Amtrak for a letter of support. Mr. Vinciguerra noted that this is again an opportunity for the commission to advocate for more public access to the water as part of this proposal. He will draft some language to be dropped into the draft support letter that was provided by Amtrak for Ms. Donahue to include.

Discussion of the file cabinet was tabled.

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Connolly will attend a meeting of the Board of Finance to present a request to increase the infrastructure budget to complete ongoing commission projects.

Mr. Murphy reported on the Park & Rec meeting status earlier in the evening.

Discussion of the Harbor Management Plan was tabled.

12. Old Business

Item a was discussed earlier in the meeting and items b and c were tabled.

13. Payment of Bills

Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the following bills: State of CT for sales and use tax, \$224; Caulfield Associates, \$15,966.30 x 2; Online Mooring, \$222; and \$50 to B & C Enterprises for lawn work. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 4-0-0.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Cole made a motion to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. seconded by Mr. Connolly which was so VOTED unanimously 4-0-0. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Donahue
Clerk, OSHMC