



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
Harbor Management Commission**

---

**302 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475-1741**

**Telephone: 860-395-3123    Facsimile: 860-395-3125**

**HMC MEETING MINUTES  
July 18, 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/j903hNsxska>**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Robert Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Robert Murphy, Chair; Paul Connolly, Secretary; David Cole (remote); Robert Soden; Lou Vinciguerra; Jennifer Donahue, Clerk. Ken Johnson and Brian Nicholson attended as guests.

Absent: Scott Mitchell, Harbor Master.

**3. Citizens with Business before the Commission**

Mr. Johnson discussed his concerns about the slip he has been assigned at the new floating dock on the Ferry Road Dock. He noted that he is very happy to have a slip after years on the waiting list but that his boat is getting tossed around pretty good on the outside and docking can be difficult. He wondered if there are any other options for him or if he could go back on the wait list until another spot becomes available. Mr. Murphy explained that placements were made to try to fit the maximum number of boats. Since this is the first year with the new dock and all of the boats assigned to it have not been in together yet it has been difficult to see if there could be an alternate configuration. He suggested that if Mr. Johnson felt his boat would be damaged he could file a Rule 11 exemption for this season and the commission would discuss the possibility of moving things around. Mr. Johnson is an experienced boater and expressed an interest in commission membership if an opening was available. Mr. Murphy advised him to speak with the representative for his political party in town. Mr. Johnson left the meeting.

As grounds maintenance, the purpose of Mr. Nicholson's attendance, was scheduled to be discussed under Old Business, Mr. Murphy invited him to make his presentation earlier if he preferred. Mr. Connolly introduced Mr. Nicholson and noted that he had participated as a volunteer at the recent cleanup of the Clothesline facility where he had shown his grounds maintenance skills. He has been providing maintenance on an interim basis recently in the absence of a permanent groundskeeping vendor. He explained the work he has been doing weeding, trimming branches, pruning the junipers, removing invasives and mowing. It was acknowledged that his costs are significantly higher than what the commission has been paying but that a higher level of service is also needed to maintain the Clothesline property. Because of the potential cost of annual services with Mr. Nicholson's company, commissioners discussed whether they would have to put the services out to bid. Mr. Murphy will investigate. Mr. Murphy also asked for more specifics on what activities the services would include. Mr. Nicholson asked to clarify what commissioners were looking for in services because he is capable of full property maintenance including filling potholes and removing large driftwood. Commissioners discussed that pot holes should be left to the town to handle and, while regular maintenance is all that is required in general for the HMC properties, other things could be included on a project basis if necessary. Mr. Murphy asked Mr. Connolly to work with Mr. Nicholson to put together a scope of work and to be his contact on the maintenance needs.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the regular meeting of June 20, 2022 were reviewed. Mr. Cole made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Soden seconded the motion. Mr. Connolly noted that he felt he had made the motion to pay the bills rather than Mr. Cole under #13. Mr. Murphy called for a vote with that correction and it was so VOTED 3-2-0 with abstentions from those who were not present.

The minutes of the special meeting of June 27, 2022 were reviewed. Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Cole 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 noted that she will have the financial report for the end of the fiscal year at the next meeting. One person has given up their spot on the kayak rack. She asked commissioners how they wanted to handle it. They advised she offer the spot to the next person for the remainder of the season. If they decline it can be offered again next year to them without penalty.

## **6. North Cove**

The cove has 146 moorings for the season with 52 people currently on the wait list and 7 people with Rule 11 requests.

Further discussion of mooring succession for spouses was tabled.

There was no report on the as-builts.

Mr. Murphy detailed the mysterious loss of a mooring in North Cove. The mooring ball with light chain attached was found in the weeds. The rest of the mooring has not been located despite a number of extensive efforts by Mr. Mitchell. Commissioners agreed that though this situation is perplexing and unfortunate, the HMC is not responsible for loss of mooring holder gear.

Reports of complaints of gill nets set in North Cove were again discussed. It appears it may have been a temporary problem but should be reported to DEEP's Old Lyme Fisheries Division. Mr. Murphy will reach out to them.

Mr. Murphy reported that ORCA would again like to do a clean up in the North Cove area. Commissioners had no objection to them using the Sheffield Street dumpster to discard the materials collected. The first selectman has also given permission for this use as the town pays for the use of the dumpster.

## **7. Clothesline**

The Clothesline is full for the season and the wait list has 29 people.

Mr. Vinciguerra noted that DEEP had asked some more specific questions about the launch ramp application. There was no report on the wall survey. Mark Jackson has been responding; Mr. Vinciguerra will follow up with him to make sure everything is in order.

Further discussion on pole maintenance was tabled.

## **8. Ferry Road**

The fixed dock is full. The floating dock has three boats, with the potential for a fourth if space allows. There are 26 people on the wait list.

Mr. Cole reported that he is still waiting for the backer board for the sign. He will get in touch with Larry Bonin when that comes in. In the meantime, he reinforced the signpost that had recently been knocked down.

Further discussion related to the docking of rescue boats was tabled. Mr. Murphy reviewed a revised set of Ferry Dock Rules to address multiple boats at the dock. After some discussion he asked commissioners to think about the changes for a possible vote at the next meeting.

An unauthorized boat belonging jointly to a slip holder and a wait list applicant was docked at the Ferry Dock over the July 4 weekend. Both have been notified that this is not allowed and can put their slip/wait list status in jeopardy.

## **9. Harbor Master/Dock Master Report**

Mr. Mitchell was not present; however, Mr. Murphy reported that there is a derelict dock in North Cove that Mr. Mitchell had placed temporarily. Some mooring holders have commented that it is keeping the birds off their boats. Commissioners agreed that, despite this feedback, it should be removed for safety reasons.

## **10. Correspondence**

Rule 11 request from L. Elliott was acknowledged. Mr. Murphy asked Ms. Donahue to provide an updated list for the yacht club.

Correspondence was acknowledged.

## **11. New Business**

A petition to amend the Old Saybrook Zoning Regulations Section 64 and 11, Sign Regulations, was acknowledged without comment.

## **12. Old Business**

No report was available on the Kayak Subcommittee in Mr. Mitchell's absence.

There was no further report on the file cabinet.

There was no further report on the video surveillance pending comments from Chief Spera.

Mr. Murphy will reach out to Clinton to see if they were successful in finding a vendor for updating their harbor management plan.

Mr. Murphy noted that he and Mr. Vinciguerra will be unavailable for the August 15 meeting. He suggested moving it to August 22. Ms. Donahue will try to get a meeting room. A special meeting to discuss the Picard property on Sheffield Street can be scheduled any time after the 22<sup>nd</sup> that is convenient for Ms. Costa.

## **13. Payment of Bills**

Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the following bills: Saybrook Hardware, \$38.43; CT Water, \$41.10 and \$96.99; Online Mooring, \$60; SLC Landscaping, \$720. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

## **14. Adjournment**

Mr. Cole made a motion to adjourn at 8:54 p.m. seconded by Mr. Soden which was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. though commissioners will file for a change to a special meeting on August 22 in its stead.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Donahue  
Clerk, OSHMC