



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Harbor Management Commission**

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**HMC MEETING MINUTES
September 19, 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/1IVL77u3hoI>

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); Lou Vinciguerra; Scott Mitchell, Harbor Master and Jennifer Donahue, Clerk

Absent: Robert Soden

Others Present: Bill Childress, Barbara & Ray Koski (remote), Ed Cassella (remote), David Provencher

3. Citizens with Business before the Commission

Mr. Murphy made a motion to add discussion of two topics to the meeting agenda:

- 1) Content of a special meeting with two potential subjects: a) Zoning referral and potential vote for Smoke on the Water special exception and coastal access permit and b) informal discussion of possible uses for 91 Sheffield Street;
- 2) Clothesline and kayak vacancies

Mr. Connolly seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 4-0-0.

Mr. Murphy described the background leading up to the Smoke on the Water special meeting noting that since there were parties in disagreement who wanted to be heard that he was recommending use of a special meeting to address the issue. He also detailed the concerns of representatives for 91 Sheffield Street noting that discussion would also be more appropriate for the special meeting. After discussion it was agreed that both these issues would be addressed at a special meeting on September 26, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. Mr. Childress, Mr. & Ms. Koski and Mr. Cassella left the meeting.

There were no other citizens with business before the commission.

Mr. Provencher was addressed out of order instead of under New Business. He presented information on 11 Chandler Avenue and its efforts to comply with DEEP requirements to legalize site improvements that were made years ago but were outside of the permit granted at the time. After discussion, Mr. Murphy made a motion asking the commissioners to authorize him to sign the LWRD License Application Pre-Submission related to the project on behalf of the HMC noting that the request was consistent with the Harbor Management Plan. Mr. Vinciguerra seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 4-0-0.

Mr. Provencher next made a presentation on 30 Riverside Avenue regarding a dock and boat lift. After discussion, Mr. Murphy made a motion asking the commissioners to authorize him to sign the LWRD License Application Pre-Submission related to the project on behalf of the HMC noting that the request was consistent with the Harbor Management Plan. Mr. Vinciguerra seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 4-0-0.

Mr. Provencher left the meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the special meeting of August 22, 2022 were reviewed. Mr. Cole made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Connolly seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 4-0-0.

5. Clerk Report

Ms. Donahue gave a brief overview of her regular written reports. She noted that there had been a recent complaint about Clothesline vacancies. Commissioners asked her to send them the information so that they could investigate the issue. She also noted that there had been a request from two people on the kayak wait list who would like to put their kayaks in vacant spots on the rack for the remainder of the season. Commissioners granted the request. Rule 11 requests, those who seem to be in violation and those who have requested multiple years in a row were discussed. Mr. Murphy will organize the information in preparation for sending letters to potential violators.

6. North Cove

The cove has 146 moorings for the season with 65 people currently on the wait list and 11 people with Rule 11 exemption requests.

Commissioners discussed mooring succession for spouses reviewing draft language prepared by Mr. Connolly. There was general agreement that this should be limited to the death of a spouse. Mr. Connolly will revise the language for presentation for a vote at the next meeting.

There was no report on the as-builts.

Mr. Murphy reported that he had left two messages with DEEP regarding the fishing net issue but had not yet received a return call.

7. Clothesline

The Clothesline is full for the season with 34 people; the wait list has 31 people.

Mr. Vinciguerra reported that he had asked a surveyor if they would be interested in doing the photographic documentation for the wall. He has not had a reply yet. He will also check on the status of the ramp permit.

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Vinciguerra did not have a chance to walk the Clothesline property yet. It was suggested that commissioners determine how many poles are in need of repair as Mr. Mitchell repaired several at the beginning of the season.

8. Ferry Road

The docks are full for the season. There are 28 people on the wait list.

Mr. Cole reported that the new sign is up.

The new draft Ferry Road policies were reviewed. After discussion Mr. Murphy made a motion to amend the Ferry Road Rules in accordance with the edits presented. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 4-0-0.

Mr. Cole asked if the commission could investigate adding a couple of slips in the northwest corner of the dock and how much it would cost.

9. Harbor Master/Dock Master Report

Mr. Murphy reported that he and Mr. Mitchell had met to discuss Mr. Mitchell's boat stipend. Current expenses were discussed as well as potential additional expenses based on Mr. Mitchell's new boat, which will be able to provide more services. It is estimated that approximately 76% of the time with the new boat will be used toward HMC work. It may also allow Mr. Mitchell to pull the moorings in the fall which would entitle him to additional compensation. Mr. Mitchell will verify that Mr. Bonin is able to pull the ramp.

Mr. Mitchell noted that he has asked S & S Marine three times to pay for their moorings and they have not done so. It was agreed that they should receive a letter regarding their violations for lack of payment and inspection. Mr. Mitchell also reported that he had been having trouble communicating with a wait list member who also wanted a mooring in the flats. Ms. Donahue was able to help him in the interim.

Mr. Mitchell suggested a winter project to construct a new floating sign to welcome boaters to North Cove.

10. Correspondence

An estimate for pulling the moorings in the fall was reviewed. Mr. Murphy made a motion to contract with Sound Side Construction LLC to pull the North Cove aluminum gangway, 146 moorings and the navigation channel buoys for \$7,350. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 4-0-0.

Rule 11 requests from Sutton and Irvine were acknowledged.

Correspondence from Ian Olesen regarding a new boat was acknowledged.

Mr. Connolly reported that he had spoke to Mr. Merriam regarding his proposal to rent his boat out to other mooring holders for a season. Commissioners felt that offering boats as seasonal charters was not consistent with the HMC rules.

11. New Business

The first two items under this section were covered at the beginning of the meeting. Commissioners discussed 6 Cove Landing. After discussion, Mr. Murphy made a motion asking the commissioners to authorize him to sign the LWRD License Application Pre-Submission related to the project on behalf of the HMC noting that the request was consistent with the Harbor Management Plan. Mr. Vinciguerra seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 4-0-0.

The zoning referral for Smoke on the Water was tabled until the special meeting on September 26, 2022.

12. Old Business

Further discussion of the long-term ground maintenance plan was tabled.

No report was available on the Kayak Subcommittee.

Ms. Donahue reported that she had gone through the file cabinet. A large portion of the documents are past the time period they are required to be kept and are eligible for disposal once the forms are completed. There are some historical, legal, FOI complaints, and dredge information that a commissioner might need to review.

Mr. Murphy reported that he had been in touch with Chief Spera about cameras but if that did not work out that perhaps the commission should purchase cameras linked to a cloud-based service like the cemetery has done.

There was no further report on an update to the Harbor Management Plan.

13. Payment of Bills

Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the following bills: Sheffield Street water testing \$60; Computer Signs \$100; four bills from Regional Restrooms each for \$107.80; Online Mooring \$60; Northworx \$1,600. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 4-0-0.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Cole made a motion to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. seconded by Mr. Vinciguerra which was so VOTED unanimously 4-0-0. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Donahue
Clerk, OSHMC