



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Harbor Management Commission**

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**HMC MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 2023 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/jLbv0-5jauU>

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; Lou Vinciguerra; Robert Soden; David Cole (remote); and Jennifer Donahue, Clerk.

Absent: Scott Mitchell, Harbor Master

Guests: Todd Hartt, Barbara & Ray Koski (remote)

3. Citizens with Business before the Commission

The Koskis commented that they were interested in the HMC's agenda item related to 91 Sheffield Street. Mr. Murphy explained the history of the HMC's involvement and noted that the commission had recently sent a letter to the OS Zoning Commission reiterating their stance that the use of the property outside of a marine industrial use is inconsistent with the Harbor Management Plan. This forced the Zoning Commission into a super majority vote on the issue; the vote ultimately was in favor of allowing a residential development on the property.

Mr. Hartt appeared before the commission to discuss his position on the 40+ wait list for North Cove mooring holders. He sought guidance on how he should handle his renewal since he wants to preserve his mooring rights but currently there is not an additional spot to accommodate a boat the size of the one he upgraded to. He also asked that commissioners consider other options that would allow accommodation of his vessel in the cove. Commissioners discussed his options with him, declining to alter the rules in place for 40+ boats in the cove. It was suggested that Mr. Hartt wait to renew his mooring until all available spots are determined. In the event he cannot be accommodated in the cove this season, he has first chance to return when a suitable spot is available. Mr. Hartt thanked commissioners for their consideration and left the meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of October 16, 2023 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 including budget review. She noted that she would like to investigate a new portable toilet company. Commissioners agreed.

6. North Cove

Renewals have been sent and are coming in. There are three open spots for the season, one of which is a 40' space. It was agreed that Mr. Reeve would receive the 40' space since he is

Dinghy dock rules will be discussed at the December meeting when Mr. Mitchell can be present.

Mr. Murphy will follow up with Public Works regarding the curb stops near the Sheffield Street town dock.

7. Clothesline

Renewals have been sent; there is one opening for the new season.

Mr. Vinciguerra reported that work is scheduled to start on the launch ramp in December. He is investigating the use of alternate pavers with CRDD. He also recommended that an 8' x 12' section of concrete that was not originally scheduled for replacement should be added to the work. The cost is \$7,000. Commissioners discussed whether these changes would require DEEP permission on the permit. Mr. Vinciguerra will consult Coastline for advice on whether notification or approval is required in this instance.

Mr. Murphy made a motion that HMC approve the order for \$7,000 for CRDD to remove the additional 8' x 12' concrete section. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

8. Ferry Road

Renewals have been sent; there are no new open spots for the season at this time.

Mr. Soden will work on the draft letter to DEEP stating that the commission will proceed with dock restoration as was previously permitted at the site.

Mr. Mitchell is working with the Public Works crew to remove the abandoned docks.

9. Harbor Master/Dock Master Report

Mr. Murphy reported on Mr. Mitchell's behalf in his absence that the water will be shut off at Ferry Road by the end of the week and the floats will be moved to North Cove Yacht Club by the weekend.

10. Correspondence

No correspondence was reviewed.

11. New Business

The zoning referrals related to drive-through windows and motor vehicle fueling stations were acknowledged without comment.

The LWRD license application COPs for the bulkhead replacements at 12 and 14 Toms Road were acknowledged.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the 2024 HMC meeting dates as set forth in the memo to Sarah Becker, town clerk, dated 11/20/2023. Mr. Connolly seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

12. Old Business

Mr. Murphy noted that the original request for a memorial bench had been withdrawn but he asked commissioners to take a look at HMC facilities to see if there were places that it makes sense to add more seating. Further discussion related to this topic was scheduled for January.

Mr. Murphy noted that ordinance change related to fines for violations needs to be updated before the start of the new season.

There was no further report on CT River dredging.

91 Sheffield Street was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Connolly reported that in the absence of comments from other commissioners he will draft language for review. Mr. Soden is still working on the suggested size of the lettering.

There was no further report on the potential to suggest Oyster River dredging to the Army Corps as the Shellfish Commission had not yet provided further information.

There was no further report on the kayak subcommittee.

There was no further report on the file cabinet.

There was no report on video surveillance.

The revision of the Harbor Management Plan is proceeding. HMC will be responsible for Chapters 1 and 3 and the consultant has begun work on the other parts.

13. Payment of Bills

Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the following bills: Online Mooring, \$56; Northworx, \$1,008 for landscaping services; Sound Side Construction for mooring removal, \$7,350; Regional Restrooms, \$107.80 x 2. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0. Two additional \$4 charges for Regional Restrooms were presented but Ms. Donahue is disputing them and commissioners deferred approval of them.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Cole made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. seconded by Mr. Soden which was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Donahue
Clerk, OSHMC