



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
Harbor Management Commission**

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

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

**HMC MEETING MINUTES  
July 8, 2019 7:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL EMPLOYEE CAFETERIA**

**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; David Cole; Robert Soden; Dick Goduti; and Jennifer Donahue, Clerk.

Absent: Scott Mitchell, Harbor Master.

Norman Root, a Ferry Road slip holder, was present as a guest.

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

Mr. Root asked commission members for permission to form a committee of Ferry Road slip holders to perform maintenance and upkeep around the area as needed such as trimming weeds, collecting driftwood or other jobs as they might arise. He also offered to use his equipment if needed to perform larger tasks. He also brought up a concern regarding a slip holder who is now in a nursing home but whose boat is co-registered and is being used in the slip by the other registered owner.

Commissioners noted that as long as the slip holder is living he can put his boat in the slip and it can be used by the other registered owner. If the slip holder passes away, the slip cannot be transferred to the other registered boat owner, that owner would have to go on the Ferry Road wait list to get a slip in his own right. Mr. Root thanked commissioners for the clarification.

With regard to the formation of a Ferry Road maintenance committee made up of slip holders, commissioners began some discussion with Mr. Root. Mr. Goduti raised his objections to this proposal expressing the opinion that maintenance falls under the purview of the commission. Mr. Root opted to leave the meeting at 7:10 p.m. and Mr. Murphy thanked him for coming and let him know that the commission would be in touch with him regarding his proposal.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the regular meeting of June 10, 2019 were considered. A motion was made by Mr. Connolly and seconded by Mr. Cole to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was so VOTED 4-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present".

The minutes of the special meeting of June 17, 2019 were considered. A motion was made by Mr. Connolly and seconded by Mr. Cole to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was so VOTED 4-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present".

The minutes of the special meeting of June 24, 2019 were considered. A motion was made by Mr. Connolly and seconded by Mr. Cole to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was so VOTED 4-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present".

**5. Clerk Report**

Ms. Donahue's written report was reviewed by commission members. Updates were provided on wait list numbers, those awaiting spots on the wait list, and number of applications received for the Flats & Beaches areas. Ms. Donahue indicated that there were several wait list members who had not yet paid their renewal fees despite several reminders who will now be dropped from the North Cove list. All Clothesline wait list members were renewed. Two Ferry Road wait list members warrant one further communication before being dropped. The monthly financial report was also reviewed.

## **6. North Cove**

Mr. Murphy made a motion to add Thomas Engel of Deep River and Gidon Goldenberg of North Haven to the wait list. Mr. Soden seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 4-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present".

Correspondence related to Graham Solomon's 41" sailboat and his mooring was discussed. Mr. Solomon had failed to provide mooring tackle by the April deadline and contacted the Harbor Master in mid-June to launch his boat. A mooring was dropped on his behalf in the river so that he could launch his boat. A possible mooring exists that will not be used this season by a similar-sized sailboat and Mr. Solomon would prefer to move into the cove either on that mooring or on a mooring of his own to be dropped now by the Harbor Master. After extensive discussion commissioners determined that Mr. Solomon will not be able to occupy a vacant mooring or be able to move his river mooring to the Cove. He is free to come into the cove with his boat as long as he abides by the rules of no more than 72 hours on a mooring and no further use of a mooring for seven days after the 72-hour usage period. This rule also applies to the boat, "Salty," which has been exceeding the maximum transient usage of guest moorings instead of using its mooring in the river. Mr. Murphy asked Ms. Donahue to draft correspondence informing Mr. Solomon of the commission's decision.

## **7. Clothesline**

There was nothing to report related to the Clothesline.

## **8. Ferry Road**

Mr. Murphy has been unsuccessful in contacting Between the Bridges to negotiate the potential sale of more piles. Commissioners asked that they be billed for the two piles they have already taken and further sales can be considered at a later date if necessary.

Mr. Cole contacted Mr. Mattson regarding the unauthorized boat he had parked in the slip next to his. The boat has been removed and the problem appears to be resolved. Commissioners asked Mr. Murphy to draft a letter reiterating the one slip/ one boat at a time policy for Mr. Mattson. Mr. Goduti also expressed concern regarding the sometimes messy conditions at the dock due to fishing rear.

## **9. Sheffield Street Project Planning, Bidding and Execution Discussion**

Mr. Soden reported that he has not been able to get a hold of the person Mr. Goduti spoke to previously regarding the ADA requirements. He does have written information suggesting a 30' gangway length as being within guidelines.

Mr. Murphy stated that he is ready to go to Meeco Sullivan with final specs and specifics for the project.

Mr. Cole reported that he had spoken with Larry Bonin about the capacity of town equipment to put in the gangway. Mr. Bonin would like a picture of the ramp and the specs on it so that he can send the information to John Deere to determine if the town payloaders has the capacity to do the job.

Mr. Murphy reported that he had spoken to Dan Rutan about removal of the gangway. Mr. Rutan felt he could not lift it onto the land but perhaps can lift it onto the dock.

Mr. Murphy will get a revised sketch from Meeco Sullivan which Mr. Soden can use to reach out to Dockco for use as a proposal for revision of the existing permit drawings. Mr. Soden will also draft the di minimus change letter with the goal of having a complete proposal for the next meeting.

Mr. Murphy reported that he was unable to attend the Park & Recreation meeting in June. He noted that there are plenty of open spots on the dingy dock and that the top row of the south side is completely empty. He again suggested opening some of those spots on a trial basis for kayak storage. Mr. Goduti reiterated that, in his opinion, a dedicated kayak facility to attract and accommodate kayakers built by Park & Rec would be a better option as he was recently injured by a kayak that was sticking out at Sheffield Street. Mr. Connolly suggested that listing acceptable boat dimensions such as no longer than 9' could help eliminate such problems. It was also suggested that the HMC might consider contributing financially to a P&R kayak project. Mr. Murphy noted that if he is able to attend the July Park & Rec meeting, he will report that discussions regarding kayaks are ongoing amongst HMC commissioners and although they are not in agreement, a trial program is still being considered. He will also inquire about P&R's plans.

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

As the Harbor Master was not present there was no report.

## **11. Correspondence**

Correspondence was acknowledged from the State of CT DOT regarding the bridge project on Route 154 over Plum Bank Creek as well as from DEEP regarding the license issued for a dock at 38 Watrous Point Road. Previous correspondence related to both of these projects was reviewed at prior meetings.

Rule 11 requests were acknowledged from Stefan Golicz and Paul Connolly.

## **12. New Business**

Commissioners discussed what, if any, level of discussion of commission issues is acceptable over email. Permissibility of caucuses amongst commission members of like political parties was also discussed. Mr. Murphy inquired as to Mr. Goduti's political affiliation for purposes of the discussion. Mr. Goduti indicated that he was elected as a democrat to the commission but that he is registered under another political affiliation with the town. After extensive discussion Mr. Murphy agreed to investigate what agency would be appropriate to give an opinion related to cyber communication outside a meeting.

Mr. Murphy reported that during his discussions with town planner, Christine Nelson, related to the Blue Plan she noted that it had been a long time since the Harbor Management Plan had been updated. She indicated that she may be able to secure some grant money for the commission to hire someone to help with an update. Commissioners agreed that if grant money is available for the project it would be worthwhile to pursue.

Mr. Goduti requested that Mr. Murphy investigate the Ferry Road subcommittee and whether it had been disbanded and if so, when as Mr. Goduti was unable to find reference to it disbanding after Mr. Murphy claimed that it no longer existed. Mr. Murphy presented a copy of the minutes from the September 12, 2011 meeting of the HMC which confirmed that the subcommittee was disbanded after a motion by Mr. Goduti. Mr. Goduti then questioned how Ferry Road is now governed and commissioners were in agreement that it is now done by a committee of the whole. Mr. Goduti accused Mr. Murphy of lying to him regarding the disbanding of the subcommittee and asked that it be recorded in the meeting minutes although it was unclear what Mr. Goduti was referring to as documentation of the subcommittee disbanding had been presented.

## **13. Old Business**

Mr. Murphy reported that he had spoken with Mr. Cronin and he indicated he will have something drafted regarding the authority of the commission by the end of the month.

Mr. Connolly reported that in his research he has not found any harbor commission that has a particularly good webpage for visitors. He noted that a link from the HMC page to the Economic Development visitor page would be good to have now and that he would have further recommendations at the next meeting.

Mr. Murphy reported that Mr. Mitchell has asked that his compensation be revisited at the end of the season when his performance can be viewed in totality. Some attempts have been made by Mr. Murphy and Mr. Mitchell to quantify his hours.

## **14. Payment of Bills**

Mr. Connolly made a motion to pay \$148 to the State of Connecticut for quarterly sales and use taxes; \$166 to Olsen Sanitation; \$14.38 and \$66.68 to Connecticut Water; \$9.37 to Saybrook Hardware; and \$377.58 to Patterson Plumbing. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 4-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present".

## **16. Adjournment**

Mr. Murphy made a motion to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. seconded by Mr. Connolly which was so VOTED unanimously 4-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present". The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Donahue  
Clerk, OSHMC