



**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
August 12, 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; David Cole; Robert Soden; Dick Goduti; Scott Mitchell, Harbor Master; and Jennifer Donahue, Clerk.

Absent: Paul Connolly, Secretary.

Graham Solomon, a mooring holder, was present as a guest.

3. Citizens with Business before the Commission

Mr. Solomon appeared before the commission requesting to occupy a mooring in North Cove for the remainder of the 2019 season. This request required reconsideration of the commission's July decision to allow him to use a mooring in the cove under the rules of a transient (3 days on 7 days off). Mr. Solomon is a North Cove Mooring Holder, however, he did not provide his mooring tackle by the deadline in time for it to be dropped for the season. He was then given a mooring in the river to accommodate his boat. As he and his wife are living on the boat for the summer and he travels frequently, the protection of the cove offers a safer option for his wife and vessel when he is travelling. A vacant rented mooring currently exists that would accommodate his boat and the cove has many vacancies this season due to various reasons. Mr. Solomon stated that this issue is very important to him and that is why he made the effort to attend the meeting in person.

After extensive discussion Mr. Soden made a motion to allow Mr. Solomon to moor his boat in the cove on the mooring marked as "Osnato" (vacant for the season and rented) as he had shown significant hardship and this is a unique circumstance to justify an exception to the general rules of the cove management. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 3-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present." Mr. Solomon will receive email correspondence confirming the commission's decision as well as its policy that all mooring holders must be off their moorings by October 31.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of July 8, 2019 were considered. A motion was made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Cole to accept the minutes as submitted. Mr. Goduti commented on section 12 of the minutes noting that his recollection is that the subcommittee he voted to disband in 2011 was not the subcommittee for the day-to-day operations of the Ferry Road Dock, but instead was a subcommittee working with the Old Saybrook Historical Society to have the area designated as a historic site. Mr. Murphy acknowledged Mr. Goduti's comments and noted that he categorically denies that he lied to Mr. Goduti and offered Mr. Goduti an opportunity to retract his accusation. When Mr. Goduti did not retract his comments Mr. Murphy noted that the accusations, though harmful and ill-advised remain. The motion was so VOTED 3-0-0 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. A report had also been received of cigarette butts on a boat that did not belong to the owner as well as the cover no longer being secured as it had been left by the owner. Mr. Murphy reported that there had been some vandalism to his mooring pick-up buoy. The year-end and monthly financial reports were also reviewed. Mr. Murphy noted that there is a mistake on the monthly report – the capital budget should be \$100,000, not \$256,300. He will contact Lee Ann Palladino, finance manager, to update the number.

6. North Cove

Mr. Murphy made a motion to add Bruce Sumner of Guilford; Timothy Quinn of Branchville, NJ; and Gregory Machinski, Gregory Nickett and Richard Lacey all of Old Saybrook to the wait list. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 3-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present."

7. Clothesline

Mr. Murphy made a motion to add Andrew Hurdis and Richard Patterson to the wait list. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 3-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present."

8. Ferry Road

Mr. Murphy has followed up on the July invoice sent to Between the Bridges for the two piles they purchased earlier in the year. After further discussion it was agreed that up to three more piles can be offered to them for sale.

Mr. Murphy had spoken to Mr. Root regarding his suggestion to have an ad hoc committee of slip holders willing to do unspecified projects and maintenance at the Ferry Road Dock. Mr. Cole had also spoken to him about the subject. It was generally agreed that regular upkeep facilitated by slip holders is acceptable and bears little risk. Any larger projects would need to be cleared through the commission. Mr. Murphy asked Mr. Cole to reiterate the commission's thanks for the help.

Mr. Cole reported that during a scheduled plumbing repair at Ferry Road it was discovered that the water was running undetected for an unknown amount of time. It was also discovered that a valve that was tie-wrapped shut by Mr. Mitchell had been opened. The valve is normally underwater, so the open valve was not detected. Mr. Murphy filed a police report to put the incident on record. A substantial water bill may be coming in September depending on how long the water was running. A negotiation on the bill with the water company may be necessary considering the circumstances.

Commissioners discussed extending the water line out to the new fixed dock. Mr. Cole had received an estimate of \$600 from Patterson Plumbing for the work as long as they could have access to a dinghy for the job. Mr. Mitchell can supply a dinghy. Mr. Mitchell has been working to replace fittings and other plumbing pieces with brass as the need arises to help them last longer. As part of the water line extension it was suggested that Patterson Plumbing be asked to replace other items if necessary to combat leaks. Mr. Mitchell will contact Patterson Plumbing so that they can meet at the dock to discuss the work. Mr. Murphy made a motion to authorize Mr. Mitchell to spend up to \$1,000 for extension of the water line onto the new fixed dock and for remedying leaks in the existing system. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 3-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present."

Mr. Mitchell noted that Greg Fiorelli had called him to report that spigots are being left on with the garden hoses at people's slips and that water is leaking as a result. Mr. Mitchell suggested that the commission consider installing timers on all of the spigots at a cost of \$17 each.

9. Sheffield Street Project Planning, Bidding and Execution Discussion

Mr. Murphy asked Mr. Soden to reach out to Larry Bonin, director of public works, to get the land-based work scheduled for the 2019 / 2020 season. Mr. Soden reported that Keith Neilson from Docko has the copy of the RFP but has not gotten back to him yet. Mr. Murphy reported that he had drafted a memo to Carl Fortuna, first selectman, regarding the dinghy docks and gangway based on the revised proposal by Meeco Sullivan. He volunteered to contact Chris Costa, zoning enforcement officer, to make sure that there are no further approvals necessary based on the revised plan.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to authorize Mr. Soden to approve payment to Docko for up to \$2,000 for revised permit drawings for the Sheffield Street Dock and the submittal of the di minimus change letter. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 3-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present."

Mr. Murphy made a motion asking the commission to authorize him to finalize the draft of the memo to Mr. Fortuna that was included in the meeting packet recommending the selection of Meeco Sullivan for the Sheffield Street floating docks and gangway. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 3-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present."

Further discussion related to the use of the dingy racks for kayaks was tabled till a meeting when all commissioners are present.

10. Harbor Master/Dock Master Report

Mr. Mitchell reported that he has spoken with Travis Parker and the moorings will be pulled the first week in November.

He also reported that he has been receiving lots of complaints about boats moored in front of houses. He is doing his best to keep all parties happy. Mr. Mitchell then left the meeting.

11. Correspondence

Copies of correspondence to Mr. Mattson and Mr. Solomon resulting from action at the previous meeting were reviewed. Correspondence from Mr. Montano regarding a change in vessel was reviewed as well as an anonymous letter claiming that a mooring had been vacant for two years. Commissioners discussed the anonymous complaint and the reintroduction of weekly checks next season by Mr. Mitchell.

Rule 11 requests were acknowledged from Paula Baylis, David Bahl, and Michael Dunne.

12. New Business

Mr. Murphy made a motion to acknowledge receipt of and make no comment on the Zoning Commission petition to amend the Old Saybrook zoning map and the Zoning Commission application for special exception by the Ferry Point Marina. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 3-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present."

Mr. Murphy attended the July meeting of the Old Saybrook Park & Rec Commission. He notified them that the commission has made no decision regarding the use of selected dingy racks at Sheffield Street for kayak storage.

The use of e-mail distribution lists to convey information to mooring and slip holders was discussed. Ms. Donahue reported that the commission has the capability to do this. It was suggested that people be given the option to opt out of receiving correspondence by e-mail.

The grounds maintenance of properties administered by the commission was discussed. It was agreed that this issue should be tabled until the end of the season when the commission could explore if there is a better way of providing the maintenance.

13. Old Business

Mr. Murphy reported that he has not followed up with Mr. Cronin but hopes to wrap up the issue of the authority of the commission by November.

Discussion of the website was tabled in the absence of Mr. Connolly.

Mr. Murphy followed up with Tom Hennick regarding FOIA regulations relating to emails between commissioners outside of meetings. The general advice included: 1) discussion of scheduling is allowed; 2) e-mails conveying information are allowed; 3) responding to e-mails is not advised. Mr. Goduti took the position that responses to emails are allowed so long as someone does not make a complaint and the FOIA does not rule it is a violation.

Mr. Murphy will follow-up with Christine Nelson regarding updating the Harbor Management Plan and possible sources of funding for that effort.

Mr. Goduti again revisited the issue of the Ferry Road subcommittee. Mr. Murphy replied that the meeting minutes show it was disbanded in 2011.

14. Payment of Bills

Mr. Murphy made a motion to pay \$60 to Connecticut Water Company; \$166 to Olsen Sanitation; and \$875 to Robert Becker. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 3-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present."

16. Adjournment

Mr. Cole made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. seconded by Mr. Murphy which was so VOTED 3-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present." The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Donahue
Clerk, OSHMC