



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
Harbor Management Commission**

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

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**HMC MEETING MINUTES  
September 9, 2019 7:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL EMPLOYEE CAFETERIA**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Robert Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Robert Murphy, Chair; Paul Connolly, Secretary; David Cole; Robert Soden; Dick Goduti; Scott Mitchell, Harbor Master; and Jennifer Donahue, Clerk.

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

There were no citizens present with business before the commission.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the regular meeting of August 12, 2019 were considered. A motion was made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Soden to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was so VOTED 3-0-0 with Mr. Connolly abstaining because he was not present for the meeting and 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. Payment was also reported as being received for the pilings purchased by Between the Bridges. The monthly financial report was reviewed.

Ms. Donahue also reported on her research related to Online Mooring, a Connecticut-based company that offers online mooring applications and payments as well as financial and information management. She detailed the basic functions and fees related to the program and the timeframe for implementation. Commission members asked that Brad Hurley, the COO of Online Mooring, be invited to the next meeting to provide a demo.

**6. North Cove**

Mr. Murphy made a motion to add Fred Williams, Gene Peckham and David Gilmore, all of Old Saybrook, to the wait list. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 4-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present."

**7. Clothesline**

There was nothing to report related to the Clothesline.

**8. Ferry Road**

Mr. Murphy noted that due to the difficulty communicating with Between the Bridges, any new piling sales would be dependent on payment up front.

Mr. Mitchell reported that he had spoken to the plumber regarding running a line out to the new fixed dock as well as repairing other things as necessary. The plumber will contact Mr. Mitchell for use of a dinghy when he is able to fit the work into his schedule.

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

Mr. Murphy asked Mr. Soden to contact Larry Bonin regarding the land-based work schedule.

Mr. Soden reported that Docko did not send the correct proposal for the work he had requested, but he has since worked it out with Mr. Nielson and was quoted an estimate of \$900 to prepare the letter and figures needed to send to the DEEP for the *di minimus* change. Mr. Soden has authorized Docko to spend up to \$900 for work for that purpose. In addition, Mr. Nielson has asked that the HMC write a letter to Docko with a copy to the DEEP regarding the commission's use of a marked-up copy of its stamped drawing noting that Docko is not responsible for issues arising from any projects done using their altered drawings. Mr. Murphy will draft the letter.

Mr. Murphy reported that he had sent a draft of the contract for the floating docks to the first selectman who had forwarded it to the Town's insurance company who made some changes to it. He is waiting to hear what the next step is so that the contract can be forwarded to Meeco Sullivan.

Mr. Murphy discussed the plan for the dinghy racks noting that he proposes they be rebuilt in almost the same location – on the existing pier and to the left side – and with the existing capacity. He suggested that they be built so that with minor alteration they can accommodate kayaks or dinghies. He further suggested that one section or row be designated for kayaks and that 12 spots be allocated for kayaks for a trial for the 2020 season. Mooring holders would be given the first option for these spaces, followed by town residents. Discussion followed and Mr. Murphy made a motion that on a trial basis 12 kayaks be allowed to occupy the dinghy racks, charging an administrative fee where appropriate and with the understanding that the final administrative details of the program will be worked out at a later time. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and discussion followed. Mr. Goduti suggested that a dedicated facility to attract kayakers to minimize congestion in the Sheffield Street area would be more appropriate. Commissioners generally agreed that the two ideas were not mutually exclusive. The motion was so VOTED 4-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present."

Mr. Mitchell discussed his ideas for the construction of the dinghy racks. He will send a drawing to commission members to consider.

Mr. Murphy will prepare a proposed scope of work for the marine contractor who will be performing the installation at Sheffield Street for the next meeting. He suggested that commissioners should make a decisive decision by the next meeting as to whether the last two pilings will be removed at Ferry Road and, if so, include that work with the marine contractor so that the as-built can then be completed for the Ferry Road project.

Discussion then arose about the depth at the Ferry Road facility. It is possible that the South Yard facility will be dredging in that area. Mr. Mitchell volunteered to check into that. Mr. Soden will contact DEEP to see if they have a historic permit which allows for dredging at the Ferry Road facility on a maintenance permit.

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

Mr. Solomon's mooring was discussed as it did not appear that his wife was living on the boat as he had represented as his reason to allow him a hardship exception to move into the cove from the river despite missing the mooring deadline. Mr. Murphy questioned whether he should now be charged for the river mooring he received in place of a cove mooring. As there were no strong feelings about this either way there was no further discussion on the topic.

The issue of rafting or bunking was discussed. There is no mention in the HMC rules about this practice and Mr. Mitchell suggested that commissioners consider adding a rule barring the practice. After further discussion regarding whether this is a problem or needs clarification, it was agreed that further discussion on the topic would be added as an agenda item for the October meeting.

#### **11. Correspondence**

A Rule 11 request was acknowledged from the Baylis'.

#### **12. New Business**

Discussion ensued regarding the August 14 memo related to the Zoning Commission's petition to amend the zoning map from Marine Industrial to Residence A District. After extensive discussion and review of the Harbor Management Plan, Mr. Murphy made a motion that the HMC authorize him to send a letter to Robert Friedman of the Zoning Commission noting that the HMC finds that the petition is inconsistent with Chapter 4, Goal 7 of the Harbor Management Plan. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 4-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present." Mr. Murphy asked Ms. Donahue to draft the letter and send a copy to him and Mr. Connolly for review. Further discussion then occurred and Mr. Murphy made a motion that the HMC authorize him to send a letter to Robert Friedmann of the Zoning Commission noting that the petition to amend the zoning map is inconsistent with the Harbor Management Plan, which motion will supersede the previous motion. Mr. Connolly seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 4-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present."

#### **13. Old Business**

Mr. Murphy reported that he followed up with Mr. Cronin regarding the authority of the commission but Mr. Cronin had not provided a final report for the meeting. He will follow up again.

Mr. Connolly reported that adding links to the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development pages from the HMC page as well as improving the Google search for the HMC's information should enhance HMC's website presence without adding a tremendous amount of maintenance work other than checking the viability of links on an ongoing basis. He will put together a list of things to be executed for improvement of the information available on the webpage.

Mr. Murphy will follow-up with Christine Nelson regarding updating the Harbor Management Plan and possible sources of funding for that effort. Mr. Connolly offered to accompany Mr. Murphy to any meetings on the subject.

A complaint was received by the first selectman regarding the condition of the Clothesline Marina in the vicinity of the guardrail. Mr. Mitchell was contacted by the first selectman regarding the complaint. Mr. Murphy, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Connolly and Mrs. Connolly went down to view the area and it was decided that the weed whacking of the area should include between the shrubbery, not just on the hill. This seems to have resolved the issue. Mr. Mitchell will get an estimate from the landscaper to add this to the work in the future. During the discussion, Mr. Goduti stated he was going to file an ethic's complaint against Mr. Connolly because Mrs. Connolly was a paid contractor to the Town and Mr. Goduti thought Mr. Connolly should not have attended the meeting. Mr. Connolly acknowledged that his wife had been compensated three years prior for work she was contracted to do by the town planner to address erosion at the guardrail site. She was never compensated by the HMC and had not been compensated further by the town for any work or fundraising she had done for the site since then.

#### **14. Payment of Bills**

Mr. Connolly made a motion to pay \$166 to Olsen Sanitation and \$3,000 to Scott Mitchell for use of his boat for the season. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 4-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present."

#### **16. Adjournment**

Mr. Cole made a motion to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. seconded by Mr. Soden which was so VOTED 4-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present." The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Donahue  
Clerk, OSHMC