



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Harbor Management Commission**

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**HMC MEETING MINUTES
December 21, 2020 7:00 P.M.
SECOND-FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, TOWN HALL - TELECONFERENCE**

To access the audio from this meeting, please use the following link:

<https://youtu.be/IEYUhmImQ-c>

1. Call to Order

Chair Robert Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Robert Murphy, Chair; Paul Connolly, Secretary; David Cole; Robert Soden; Lou Vinciguerra; Scott Mitchell, Harbor Master; and Jennifer Donahue, Clerk. Garry Rutty, Tami Rutty, Kevin Peterson and Tom Peterson attended as guests.

3. Citizens with Business before the Commission

Mr. Rutty is a commercial fisherman and longtime slip holder at the Ferry Road Dock with a tax exemption from the state showing that he makes a significant portion of his income from commercial fishing. He is currently the only person at the Ferry Dock who has submitted a tax exemption certificate. Mr. Rutty requested that due to his commercial fishing status he be given consideration for the slip that recently opened up at the Ferry Dock, which would allow him to keep both his fishing boats in the same place and to save money. He noted that he was willing to pay twice the rate that the HMC charges for the slips in order to have two. He explained that he needs two boats because they are used to catch different kinds of fish and have different speeds depending on how far out he has to go for a particular catch. Mr. K. Peterson and Mr. T. Peterson also have slips at the Ferry Dock and voiced support for Mr. Rutty's request.

After significant discussion, commissioners agreed that Mr. Rutty is a unique case due to his commercial fishing status and longtime residency in Old Saybrook and as a slip holder at the Ferry Dock. It was agreed that Mr. Murphy and Mr. Connolly will review the Ferry Dock rules, which do not seem to preclude having two slips as written, as well as the current wait list members to ensure that no one is passed over unfairly, and draft a proposed amendment to the rules to be considered at the next meeting with the goal of having an answer for Mr. Rutty by the end of January. Commissioners also noted that should Mr. Rutty be granted two slips, no additional fees will be charged above the regular fees required to have two slips at the Ferry Dock.

Mr. Murphy made a motion that the commission authorize him and Mr. Connolly to review the present Ferry Dock rules and wait list and draft suggested language for fishermen with state commercial fishing tax exemption and Old Saybrook residency to rent two boat slips at the Ferry Dock. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of November 16, 2020 were considered. A motion was made by Mr. Cole and seconded by Mr. Connolly to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

5. Clerk Report

Ms. Donahue's written report was reviewed by commission members. Updates were provided on wait list and renewal numbers. The monthly financial summary report was also reviewed. Ms. Donahue reported that the renewal period was complete for North Cove, the Clothesline and Ferry Road. All boaters renewed or voluntarily gave up their spots by the renewal deadline except for one. All boaters who had not renewed within one month after their invitation were given up to two phone calls and additional emails each to ensure that everyone received their renewal links and they were given renewal assistance if they needed it.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to add Kaitlyn John of Springfield, MA to the North Cove wait list, Gary Rutty to the Ferry Road wait list and Tony Lyons to the kayak wait list. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

6. North Cove

The wait list currently has 44 people. Mr. Murphy asked Ms. Donahue to send a copy of the wait list to the commissioners and the harbor master to help determine what space will be available for the upcoming season. He also authorized her to offer moorings until 11 vacant spots are filled. Completed applications from wait list members that are offered moorings should be received by the Friday before the January meeting. A bill of sale showing boat ownership may be accepted in lieu of a registration at this time if necessary for the new mooring holders.

7. Clothesline

The wait list currently has 18 people. Mr. Murphy asked Ms. Donahue to offer the open space on the Clothesline to the first person on the wait list. One person did not reply to the renewal. Mr. Mitchell will follow up with him to make sure there are no extenuating circumstances before offering the spot to someone else.

Mr. Vinciguerra reported that he has been in contact with the town zoning enforcement officer, Chris Costa, and she has confirmed that no DEEP permit is needed if the project stays above the CJL. A certificate of zoning compliance, building permit and coastal site plan review (which requires a survey) will all be needed however. Mr. Vinciguerra contacted four groups to provide estimates for the design and implementation of the new stairs. Two partnered together on a proposal and one did not respond for a total of two proposals submitted. After discussion Mr. Murphy made a motion that the HMC retain Indigo to do the landscape and structural design for the replacement of the Clothesline Marina stairs. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 4-0-0 with Mr. Murphy abstaining because he is acquainted with one of the firms submitting proposals though he sees no conflict of interest. Mr. Murphy thanked Mr. Vinciguerra for all of his work on this project.

8. Ferry Road

The wait list currently has 17 people.

Ms. Donahue reported that Norman Root, Jr. has asked permission to switch his slip to the one next to his that had previously been used by his father, Norman Root, Sr., who recently passed away. There was no objection to this request. Mr. Mitchell will call him to inform him.

There was no update on the as built. The permit extension will be revisited at the January meeting. Mr. Murphy will follow up with DEEP if the extension is not received by the January meeting. There is no need to discuss the dock extension until DEEP replies about the permit extension.

Mr. Mitchell is still working on the problem of winterizing the water pipes.

There was no update on the installation of the boarding ladders. Mr. Murphy spoke to Mr. Rutan about submitting an invoice for the work he did replacing the hoop where the gangway was breaking away.

9. Sheffield Street Project

Mr. Murphy reported that he had texted Mr. Bonin about the jib and he confirmed that he would order it. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Murphy will coordinate with Mr. Bonin about the timing of installation in the spring.

10. Harbor Master/Dock Master Report

Mr. Mitchell reported that he had straightened out the moorings at the Town Dock, though a few still remain. There is an unclaimed dinghy that he will bring to the town garage before disposing of it as it is in poor condition. There is also an unidentified kayak on the rack which needs to be removed.

Ms. Donahue asked Mr. Mitchell and commissioners to approve renewal timing and pricing for the kayak rack for the upcoming season. It was agreed that renewal should begin in January and cut off at the end of February. The fee will be \$50 plus tax for renewals. New kayak rack holders will continue to have their \$10 wait list fee applied to their kayak fee for the year. Renewals for the Flats & Beaches will be offered from Jan – September 1. Wait list renewals will be offered from April 1 – June 1.

11. Correspondence

Several kayak rack holders sent feedback on the program. All seemed to have enjoyed their experience and most expressed an interest in renewing for the coming season.

There were no Rule 11 requests.

12. New Business

Commissioners discussed the proposed amendment to the zoning regulations. Mr. Murphy made a motion that the HMC provide no comments regarding the proposed changes. Mr. Vinciguerra seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

The DEEP permit application submitted by A Piece of Paradise for a pier was reviewed. It was determined that the HMC has no jurisdiction as the project is in Fenwick. No objections were made to the project.

13. Old Business

Online Mooring had a user conference that was attended by Ms. Donahue and Mr. Connolly. It discussed a new app they are developing, renewals as well as shortcuts to help save administrative time. Ms. Donahue will contact OM about making the additional changes to renewal times so that the wait lists can be set right again.

The proposed budget for 2021-2022 was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the budget as submitted with an infrastructure budget of \$150,000. Mr. Connolly seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

There was no update on the Harbor Management Plan.

Mr. Soden was asked to solicit bids or proposals to permit the boat launch ramp and existing structures at the Clothesline Marina. A replacement sign was also discussed.

There was no further discussion on rafting/bunking.

There was no update regarding the surveillance cameras.

Further discussion on the website was tabled.

Further discussion on mooring succession for spouses was tabled.

14. Payment of Bills

Mr. Connolly made a motion to pay Robert Becker \$425 and \$125 for landscape/mowing services; Online Mooring \$870 for application fees for November and \$36 for application fees for August; and \$2,094.04 for sales and use taxes for November. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

15. Adjournment

Mr. Cole made a motion to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. seconded by Mr. Connolly which was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Donahue
Clerk, OSHMC