



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Harbor Management Commission**

302 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475-1741

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

**HMC SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
August 22, 2022 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/JiKTWRgzbD4>

1. Call to Order

Chair Robert Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Robert Murphy, Chair; Paul Connolly, Secretary (remote); David Cole (remote); Robert Soden (remote); Lou Vinciguerra; Scott Mitchell, Harbor Master and Jennifer Donahue, Clerk.

3. Citizens with Business before the Commission

There were no citizens with business before the commission.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of July 18, 2022 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. She presented the year-end fiscal report for FY2022 and the regular monthly financial report. She noted that there are three people in North Cove who never provided registration information despite reminders and have not filed a Rule 11 exemption. Commissioners agreed they should receive a letter along with any boaters who have been identified as possibly breaking the Rule 11 requirements without notifying the committee.

Ms. Donahue noted that representatives for the latest Smoke on the Water proposal would like to make a presentation at the next HMC meeting. Mr. Murphy will contact them to discuss this before adding it to the agenda.

6. North Cove

The cove has 146 moorings for the season with 59 people currently on the wait list and 9 people with Rule 11 exemption requests.

Further discussion of mooring succession for spouses was tabled.

There was no report on the as-builts.

Mr. Murphy reported that he had spoken with someone at DEEP about the gill net issue in North Cove and confirmed that nets are not allowed in a mooring area. He turned over the identification number on the net floats to the DEEP enforcement division who will investigate further. He will follow up with DEEP to get an update and to confirm what authority the harbor master may have to remove these nets if they appear again in the cove.

The ORCA clean up went forward and the North Cove Yacht Club dumpster was sufficient to handle the material collected so the Sheffield Street dumpster did not need to be utilized.

7. Clothesline

The Clothesline is full for the season with 34 moorings, although one person recently resigned, their spot will be filled for the remainder of the season by the first person on the wait list; the wait list has 30 people.

Mr. Vinciguerra reported that he contacted GNCB about the wall survey and will reach out to a surveyor to have a package put together.

Commissioners discussed reaching out to Dan Rutan again about driving new poles at the Clothesline or replacing them one third at a time over a few years. A pile and cable system was discussed as an alternative that might provide a few more mooring spaces. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Vinciguerra will walk the property before contacting Mr. Rutan.

8. Ferry Road

The fixed dock is full. The floating dock has three boats, with the potential for a fourth if space allows. There are 27 people on the wait list.

Mr. Cole reported that the new sign should be up this week.

The draft policies related to Ferry Road that were presented at the June meeting will be reviewed for potential final approval in September.

9. Harbor Master/Dock Master Report

Mr. Mitchell requested the HMC webpage make the size allowed for transient boats clearer. This should also be added to the Welcome to North Cove flyer. He suggested investigating installing an 800# mooring for larger transients. He will check out pricing and report back. Mr. Murphy reported that the North Cove Yacht Club launch drivers are doing a good job of directing transients to open spots.

Mr. Mitchell reported that he had to move a couple of moorings that had drifted. He questioned whether the HMC might consider allowing heavier moorings or suggesting certain types of moorings to mitigate the problem. A boat in the river also recently was dragged into the channel and Mr. Mitchell had it towed in to avoid causing problems.

There is a repeat transient offender in the cove who has been there for three weeks. This is an ongoing annual problem with this boat. Mr. Mitchell will contact the police boat for assistance.

Mr. Mitchell also suggested a meeting with Chief Spera, the PD boat drivers and the dockmasters at Between the Bridges and Saybrook Point to discuss the violations of the no wake zones. He noted that it is dangerous and hoped that if everyone came together a plan could be reached to slow people down.

Finally, Mr. Mitchell discussed that his boat stipend has remained the same since he began as the harbor master. He noted that prices have gone up and that he is getting a new, larger boat that will be able to provide more services to the HMC. Commissioners discussed how to come up with a formula to justify the payment fairly since the boat is not owned by the town. Mr. Murphy will work with Mr. Mitchell to put the information together. Mr. Mitchell should also try to document the time he spends.

It was noted that the town may have a piece of surplus equipment that could be helpful for setting and pulling moorings.

10. Correspondence

Rule 11 requests from Betty, Sullivan, Beck and Pardi were acknowledged.

Correspondence was acknowledged. Mr. Connolly will reach out to Mr. Merriam regarding his correspondence about potentially using a rental boat for the season.

11. New Business

A petition to amend the Old Saybrook Zoning Regulations Section 53, Standards for Motor Vehicles for separation distance for fuel pumping stations, was acknowledged without comment.

The COP for 23 West Shore Drive was acknowledged.

Mr. Murphy will check in with Mark at Coastline regarding the Thiessen dock project and its history as he believed it had already been signed off on by the HMC as consistent with the Harbor Management Plan.

First Selectman Fortuna has asked that the HMC potentially contribute with other member towns to the pumpout boat for the July 2023 season as it is set to run a deficit for its services. It is funded 75% by the state and administered through the Town of Essex. If necessary, the contribution needed would probably be in the \$3-5,000 range.

12. Old Business

Further discussion of the long-term ground maintenance plan was tabled.

No report was available on the Kayak Subcommittee.

There was no further report on the file cabinet.

There was no further report on the video surveillance pending comments from Chief Spera.

Mr. Murphy will reach out to Clinton to see if they were successful in finding a vendor for updating their harbor management plan.

13. Payment of Bills

Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the following bills: Four bills from Regional Restrooms each for \$98; Online Mooring \$60; Northworx \$2,000. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Cole made a motion to adjourn at 9:18 p.m. seconded by Mr. Vinciguerra which was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Donahue
Clerk, OSHMC