



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Harbor Management Commission**

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**HMC MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2019 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL EMPLOYEE CAFETERIA**

1. Call to Order

Chair Robert Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Citizens with Business before the Commission

Philip Warner from Old Lyme made a presentation about the 14' pontoon boat that he would like to use as a "floating ice cream truck" this summer in the Old Saybrook area as well as in other waterfront areas such as Old Lyme. The boat will be equipped with a cooler and a generator and will sell prepackaged ice cream to boaters and will be based at Island Cove Marina in Old Saybrook. He has approached the State about his plans as well as neighboring harbor commissions, harbormasters, and towns. So far no one has objected, except for Essex which has a provision in its harbor management plan that prevents hawking of goods. No one seems to have jurisdiction over him as he has been seeking a permit to go into business, but so far no one has been in a position to grant him one. Mr. Mitchell said he did not see a problem with the plan as long as the boat stays out of the middle of the channel while doing business. Commissioners discussed the request and conceptually found no objections to the plan providing the Harbor Management Plan does not prevent it. Commissioners will review the plan and get back to Mr. Warner.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of February 11, 2019 were considered. A motion was made by Mr. Cole and seconded by Mr. Soden to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was so VOTED 3-0-1 with Mr. Connolly abstaining because he was not present at the last 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 moorings in North Cove, on the Clothesline and at Ferry Road. Both Ferry Road and the Clothesline are full. North Cove numbers are up from last year. The monthly financial report was also reviewed. Ms. Donahue also requested deadlines for acceptance of applications and for upcoming mailings.

6. North Cove

Mr. Murphy made a motion to add Christopher Buydos of Old Lyme, Rafal Koc of New Britain, Jose Suarez of Chester and James McKay of Chester to the wait list. Mr. Connolly seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

Commissioners discussed deadlines for the season with Mr. Mitchell stating that the cutoff for applications for North Cove should be April 1 and all mooring tackle needs to be at the Town Dock or the yacht club by April 7. He will begin dropping moorings April 20. Wait list renewals will be sent next month and Ms. Donahue will order parking stickers immediately.

7. Clothesline

There was no additional report on the Clothesline and no one waiting to be added to the wait list.

8. Ferry Road

Mr. Murphy made a motion to add Roger Abell of Old Saybrook to the Ferry Road wait list. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

Mr. Goduti asked for clarification of when additional work at Ferry Road would no longer be tabled. Commissioners generally agreed that once plans were in place for the work to be done at Sheffield Street additional work at Ferry Road could be considered.

9. Sheffield Street Project Planning, Bidding and Execution Discussion

Mr. Murphy reviewed the revised draft RFP. Mr. Goduti criticized the rate of progress achieved by the commission on this and other projects as well as Mr. Murphy's leadership. Mr. Murphy reminded Mr. Goduti that he was present at most of the meetings where commissioners approved decisions related to this and other projects and that he himself had recommended that the commission take its time with the RFP. Mr. Connolly pointed out that the draft RFP is representative of what has been discussed at previous meetings and that he hoped more progress would be made on it this evening. Commissioners then discussed dates for the RFP (get it out to bid April 1, return date of May 1, award date of July 15). It was also generally agreed that the work should commence and docks should be delivered in the spring of 2020 after any land-based site work is completed. Mr. Soden agreed to take a look at the MLW measurement. There will be no utilities on the floating dock. Mr. Murphy agreed to make the revisions discussed and send them to Mr. Soden for proofreading.

Mr. Connolly made a motion to authorize Mr. Murphy to proceed with the RFP with the edits as discussed. Mr. Soden seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 4-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present."

Mr. Murphy then updated the commission on the repairs to be performed by Parker Construction. Work will begin before April 15 on the stringers, decking, and fendering.

Mr. Murphy noted that by the next meeting some sketches for what new dinghy and kayak racks might look like should be completed. Mr. Mitchell will make repairs to the existing racks so that they will last through the upcoming boating season.

10. Harbor Master/Dock Master Report

Mr. Mitchell noted that he has been receiving noise complaints because of the dredging in the Saybrook Point area.

11. Correspondence

No correspondence or Rule 11 requests were presented for review.

12. New Business

Commissioners reviewed a DEEP COP for maintenance dredging at Harbor One Marina. No action was required.

Commissioners reviewed a DEEP permit consultation form for a bridge replacement at Route 154 over Plum Bank Creek. Mr. Murphy made a motion that commission members authorize him to sign the consultation form noting that the work is consistent with the Harbor Management Plan. Mr. Connolly seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 4-0-0 with Mr. Goduti voting "present."

Mr. Murphy discussed the idea of creating a website or webpage for boaters coming to the cove. Some things that might be included would be weather, tides, things to do in Old Saybrook such as where to buy marine supplies, groceries or hardware items; restaurants; distances to these places; etc. Commissioners agreed that this idea was worth exploring. Mr. Connolly volunteered to check out other harbor commission websites. Ms. Donahue will speak with the town's IT professional as well as the Economic Development Director. Mr. Murphy will speak with the First Selectman about the idea.

Commissioners discussed how many town moorings to offer for the 2019 season. After some discussion it was agreed that this subject should be revisited at the next meeting after Mr. Mitchell has had more time to try to acquire used mooring tackle for this purpose.

Mr. Goduti requested that Ms. Donahue's employment status be reviewed. Originally she began with the commission on a trial basis and Mr. Goduti recommended that her employment be made permanent based on her performance. Other commissioners contended that this issue had already been addressed and Ms. Donahue had been working on a permanent basis for some time.

14. Old Business

Mr. Murphy stated that he had spoken with Attorney Cronin as a follow-up to his previous visit to the commission about drafting a clarification to restore commission authority in areas where it may have been inadvertently lost in the transition between the Waterfront Commission and the Harbor Management Commission. There was general

agreement that the commission should not have jurisdiction over beaches and road endings but that it should have jurisdiction over the Ferry Road Dock, the Sheffield Street Town Dock, the Clothesline Marina including the shoulder and parking areas, the launch parking lot and any other Town-owned property adjacent to these areas. Mr. Murphy will work on some language to present for the next meeting.

Mr. Cole left the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

15. Payment of Bills

There were no bills to be paid.

16. Adjournment

Mr. Connolly made a motion to adjourn at 10:07 p.m. seconded by Mr. Soden which was so VOTED unanimously 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Donahue
Clerk, OSHMC