



**TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Harbor Management Commission**

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**HMC MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2024 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/vYk-xR1tmUU>

1. Call to Order

Chair Robert Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

Others Present: Brian Nicholson, Northworx; Eugene Sapozhnikov and Mark Hand.

3. Citizens with Business before the Commission

Mr. Hand asked commissioners for clarification on the wait list. He is first on the list but has a 41' boat. The procedure for boats of that size was reviewed.

Mr. Sapozhnikov had requested to upgrade his boat. Since the new boat is more than 5' larger than the old boat, Mr. Mitchell and the commissioners discussed space for this year in North Cove, ultimately determining that the change could be accommodated. Mr. Sapozhnikov thanked the commission and left the meeting.

Mr. Nicholson introduced himself in person to the full commission and his work tending to the HMC's landscaping needs was discussed. Commissioners agreed they are happy with the results, especially at the Clothesline Marina.

Mr. Murphy made a motion to add a discussion of the CT River Bridge DEEP proposal under New Business. 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 February 20, 2024 were reviewed. Mr. Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 4-0-1, with Mr. Connolly abstaining because he had not been present.

5. Clerk Report

Ms. Donahue gave a brief overview of her regular written reports noting that all areas are now full for the season and revenue goals for the fiscal year have been exceeded. Ms. Donahue also reported that based on price and resolution of other factors, Clean Restrooms will remain the portable toilet vendor. She reported that parking stickers are now available. Finally, she requested an opinion on whether paddleboards would be allowed in place of kayaks on the kayak racks due to a couple of requests. Commissioners agreed to try the storage of paddleboards out on a trial basis for this season.

6. North Cove

Assignment of moorings was covered under the clerk's report.

The language for signage and tags for North Cove and the dinghy dock was agreed upon. Mr. Murphy advised that the commission send a note to Chris Costa about the desired signs and their sizes before placing an order for them.

There was no further update on curb stops and Mr. Murphy suggested that the issue be dropped.

7. Clothesline

Mr. Vinciguerra reported that the majority of the work on the ramp project is complete except for the processed stone in the parking area. Mr. Murphy made a motion to allow CRRD for an amount not to exceed \$1,000 to spread the gravel and resurface the parking area. Mr. Connolly seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0.

Ms. Donahue reported that a new Clothesline mooring holder has offered to number the poles. She showed an example of the numbers and detailed their cost and the material they are made out of. Commissioners discussed the numbering and asked that Ms. Donahue thank the person for the offer, which they are declining at this time in case they make changes to the poles in the next year.

8. Ferry Road

Mr. Cole reported that the price of a new floating dock and ramp would be about \$12-13,000 without installation. With the lack of water in the proposed dock location and the uncertainty of being able to piggyback on other dredging in the area it was agreed that this project would be put on hold for now.

Mr. Cole reported that the storm damage had been taken care of by an unknown good Samaritan. Commissioners noted that if Mr. Cole finds out who did the work they would like to thank them. Mr. Cole noted that curb stops are still needed. Mr. Vinciguerra described what they are using at NCYC. Mr. Cole will check with DPW to see what they might have on hand. Mr. Cole will also get an estimate for the hole that needs to be filled with plywood.

9. Harbor Master/Dock Master Report

Mr. Mitchell reported that he will be working this week with DPW to put the ramps and dock back at North Cove for the season. He is also working on the cove layout. He suggested the commission may wish to begin planning for future maintenance dredging since the process for scheduling that takes such a long time. Mr. Murphy noted that there are some repairs needed at the Ferry Dock, including some cleats. Mr. Vinciguerra will look at the shop drawings to see if this is something the vendor should be responsible for before Mr. Mitchell makes any repairs.

10. Correspondence

Correspondence was reviewed. Commissioners discussed a letter from the Port Authority about funding and whether or not it might be appropriate to use for new Clothesline poles. Mr. Murphy will revisit CRDD's proposal from last year for information.

There were no Rule 11 requests.

11. New Business

The Request for Natural Diversity Data from Saybrook Manor Cove Association was acknowledged with no action required.

The COP for 81 Plum Bank Road was acknowledged with no action required.

The LWRD License Application COP for Maple and Atlantic Avenue was acknowledged with no action required.

The Northworx proposal for grounds maintenance was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Murphy introduced the item related to the CT River drawbridge, recapping that the commission had seen a conceptual plan for the project nearly four years ago and had determined that it was consistent with the Harbor Management Plan. The HMC had also made recommendations for additional public access on the Old Saybrook side of the project. The 10 conceptual pages that had been reviewed have now grown to 178 pages that the commission was not involved with and was not asked to comment on. Public comment is now due in two weeks. Commissioners discussed how to proceed. After discussion Mr. Murphy made a motion that a letter be written by the HMC:

- 1) Reconfirming the request for public access
- 2) Requesting briefings during construction
- 3) Asking for an informational briefing including with Old Lyme and Essex's HMCs and harbor masters
- 4) Requesting that channel closure be minimized from Memorial Day through Labor Day
- 5) Requesting notification be made to the harbor master of all major barge movements

Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0. Mr. Murphy will contact Old Lyme and Essex.

12. Old Business

Mr. Murphy reviewed the suggested updates to the town ordinances related to North Cove. He will send the final draft to Ms. Donahue and Mr. Connolly for review and proofreading before submitting.

There was no further discussion of memorial benches.

There was no further report on CT River dredging.

There was no further report on the potential to suggest Oyster River dredging to the Army Corps as the Shellfish Commission had not yet provided further information.

There was no further report on the kayak subcommittee.

There was no further report on video surveillance.

Mr. Connolly reported that the consultant should have a draft of most chapters of the Harbor Management Plan by next month. Mr. Connolly is working on the first chapter.

13. Payment of Bills

Mr. Connolly made a motion to approve the following bills: Connecticut River Dock & Dredge, \$36,069 minus 10% retainage and \$9,000 minus 10% retainage; Online Mooring, \$182; sales and use tax, \$192; North Cove Yacht Club \$500 for winter dock storage; Lighthouse Printing \$410 for parking stickers. Mr. Cole seconded the motion and it was so VOTED 4-0-1 with Mr. Vinciguerra abstaining related to the yacht club payment as he is the commodore of the North Cove Yacht Club.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Cole made a motion to adjourn at 9:18 p.m. seconded by Mr. Murphy which was so VOTED unanimously 5-0-0. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Donahue
OSHMC Clerk