



TOWN OF WESTBROOK
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

UNAPPROVED MINUTES FROM JUNE 22, 2021
WESTBROOK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
866 Boston Post Road, Mulvey Municipal Building
7:00 p.m., South Conference Room

Attendance/Roll Call: John Rie, Chairman; Dean Arktop, Bob Charrette, Evan Cusson, Vice Chairman; Tom Fahey, Harry Plaut, Harbormaster, and Ron Stevenson

Absent: Andy Calderoni, Lee McNamar, Gary Nolf and Dave Russell, Assistant Harbormaster

Also in attendance: Amy Palumbo from the Middle Beach Association; Pat Marcarelli, President of the Council of Beaches and Joe Pauloski, Jr.

Call to order: J. Rie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to add Middle Beach to the agenda. The motion was made by E. Cusson; seconded by R. Stevenson. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Motion to add the speed of jet skis on the Menunketesuck River to the agenda. The motion was made by E. Cusson; seconded by R. Stevenson. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Correspondence:

An email dated 6/17/21 was received from Marguerite Hickernell and Larry Witanowski. They are concerned about the speed of jet skis on the Menunketesuck River.

Minutes:

Motion to approve the May 25, 2021 Harbor Management Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted. The motion was made by E. Cusson; seconded by T. Fahey. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Bills:

There were no bills to be paid.

Harbormaster's Report:

1. Number of shoreline mooring applications received

H. Plaut showed Commission members the signs for Duck Island that say "This Area is Closed. No Trespassing." He will put the signs up this coming Saturday.

There are 27 paid Shoreline Moorings. Many more have not been paid for yet. H. Plaut did get some checks in the mail today. There is an unlimited capacity for shoreline moorings, however, there are restrictions due to placement.

H. Plaut was contacted by some out-of-town boaters requesting transient moorings. Most of the boats are more than 30 feet long, so H. Plaut suggested that they call the local marinas. The Town does not offer transient moorings.

2. Number of Patchogue River Moorings available

13 Patchogue River Moorings have been sold.

The other 2 moorings are for Duck Island and the Town which makes a total of 15.

E. Cusson asked H. Plaut for a list of checks deposited for the Patchogue River Moorings. H. Plaut will send him the list.

Chairman's Report:

There's a significant hump in the harbor across from the gas dock at Harry's Marine which needs to be further investigated. The entry channel to the harbor is silting in more and will require dredging next year. The Army Corps of Engineers has no money to dredge next year. There was a grant opportunity through Senator Chris Murphy's office for dredging, but there was not enough time to file the application. J. Rie has contacted U.S. Representative Joe Courtney's Office to see if there will be money for spring dredging.

New Business:

Middle Beach:

Amy Palumbo said there are moorings and a rusty anchor sticking out of the water. She said last year, three children got cut on the rusty anchor. She spoke of one particular mushroom anchor that needs to either be removed or buried for safety. She feels that the guidelines the HMC set are good, but they are not being consistently enforced. Commission members said the dangerous anchor A. Palumbo reported should be pulled. J. Rie advised that a police boat accompany H. Plaut when he pulls the anchor.

Motion to have Harbormaster Harry Plaut, accompanied by police escort, pull the illegal mushroom anchor, and relocate the other anchor per tonight's discussion with Amy Palumbo. The motion was made by E. Cusson; seconded by R. Stevenson. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Salt Island

J. Pauloski, Jr., spoke about seeing many people and dogs out on Salt Island. They are not supposed to be out there. J. Rie talked about docents that used to be on Salt Island on a regular basis. They were volunteers who were part of Friends of Westbrook Barrier Islands. J. Pauloski, Jr., also expressed concern about the safety of the people out there when the tide starts to come in. The HMC has tried to get the police boat to do patrols, when they can, on a regular basis around the barrier islands. The three barrier islands all have different rules, and they're all run by different entities. J. Rie said the Conservation Commission has interns who will be assigned to Salt Island a few hours a week this summer.

E. Cusson said there are rules posted at the Town Dock which are not being followed. He suggested asking the Resident State Trooper to patrol it on a regular basis. E. Cusson and J. Rie will talk with Dave Russell, Assistant Harbormaster, about beefing up patrols.

J. Rie will summarize the concerns talked about in tonight's meeting about Middle Beach and Salt Island in a letter to the Board of Selectmen.

Missing Rock Buoys

H. Plaut said the missing rock buoy at Menunketesuck Island was put back in. E. Cusson said it's not in the correct location.

The buoy on Red's Rock in front of Water's Edge needs to be moved to the south side. E. Cusson spoke to D. Russell about this last week.

Menunketesuck River complaint about fast moving jet skis:

J. Rie will ask D. Russell to put up no wake signs and speed signs. He also will contact the complainant and ask her to take photos.

Motion to add three no wake/speed limit signs in the Menunketesuck River. The motion was made by E. Cusson; seconded by T. Fahey. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Old Business

Mooring inspections:

E. Cusson suggested that the HMC request receipts from mooring holders showing that their moorings have been inspected. B. Charrette suggested that each mooring holder attest to the fact that their mooring has been inspected. Proof of inspection should be required before mooring holders receive their stickers. J. Rie suggested tabling this discussion until the fall.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. was made by E. Cusson; seconded by T. Fahey. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King

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Recording Clerk