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TOWN OF WESTBROOK
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

UNAPPROVED MINUTES FROM AUGUST 24, 2021
WESTBROOK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Hybrid Meeting

866 Boston Post Road, Mulvey Municipal Building

6:00 p.m., Multimedia Room

Attendance/Roll Call: John Rie, Chairman; Dean Arktop, Andy Calderoni, Bob Charrette, Evan Cusson, Vice Chairman; Tom Fahey, Lee McNamar, Harry Plaut, Harbormaster; Dave Russell, Assistant Harbormaster and Ron Stevenson

Absent: Gary Nolf

Also in attendance: First Selectman Noel Bishop, Selectman John Hall, President of the Council of Beaches Pat Macarelli, Resident State Trooper April Moran and Consultant for Pilots Point dredging Rob Shickel

Call to order: J. Rie called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Correspondence - The following correspondence was received:

- 45-day public notice from the US Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division “Proposed replacement and revision of the Department of the Army Connecticut General Permits”

Motion to add to the meeting agenda under New Business: LWRD License Application Pre-Submission Consultation Form for a 3 (three) foot by 152 (one hundred fifty-two) foot dock at 56 Indian Trail in Westbrook. The motion was made by E. Cusson; seconded by D. Arktop. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

- A CT-DEEP COP (Certificate of Permission) issued for a dock at 82 Menunketesuck Road in Westbrook

The existing 110 (one hundred ten) foot dock over the marsh is to be raised, and new floats installed. The new floats will be the same distance from Pilot’s Point docks across the street as the existing.

This is just a notification. No action needs to be taken.

Minutes:

Motion to approve the June 22, 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:

Motion to approve Invoice #4126 from Harbormaster Harry Plaut for removal of 3 abandoned anchors for \$300.00, removal of a log from the harbor for \$200.00 and the reset of two markers, new anchor, chain and shackles for \$654.53 for a total of \$1,154.53. The motion was made by E. Cusson; seconded by T. Fahey. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Motion to approve the invoices for Olson Sanitation for July and August for the port-a-potty for a total of \$200.00. The motion was made by E. Cusson; seconded by L. McNamar. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Harbormaster's Report:

H. Plaut was approached by Ted Leighton to allow the Sea Scouts of Madison to moor a 30' sailboat in the Town of Westbrook. He gave them permission to use the transient mooring in the Patchogue River. The boat hasn't been brought up yet.

Chairman's Report:

There was discussion about preparation for Hurricane Henri. Calls were made to everyone who has a mooring. No one was injured. There was no property damage. J. Rie asked H. Plaut to call to call a mooring holder who did not move his boat from the mooring during the storm.

There was positive feedback about the article in The Shoreline Times about the unregistered mooring policy. Many mooring applications were received after the article was published.

Residents on the Menunketesuck River requested more "No Wake" signs. D. Russell will put those signs up.

Policing Along the Shoreline

There have been incidents of boats speeding in the Menunketesuck River. J. Rie suggested asking people to call the Harbormaster or Troop F if they see a speeding boat. There was a suggestion to get a surveillance camera for the Town Dock. N. Bishop said this idea can be discussed further at a Board of Selectmen Meeting.

Pat Macarelli, President of the Council of Beaches, said the beach residents would like to see more shoreline patrols. There was a break in on a boat and items were stolen including a boat battery. Security can be hired. There is no parking at the Town Dock from midnight to 4:00 a.m.

at the Town Dock. A. Roman will send notification to the State Trooper from Troop F who is on patrol during those times to do more patrols.

Silting/dredging of the Patchogue River

The channel will have to be dredged next spring, or at least part of the channel near piling #6 which is currently located about 20' on the beach. It's supposed to be in the channel. Pilots Point is applying to dredge the same sandbar area.

R. Shickel is a Marine Consultant, and he has survey information which he's sharing with the HMC. He's been a consultant to Pilots Point since 1986. Pilots Point has the ability to dredge the channel to the Patchogue River. The sediment coming down the river is getting stalled when the tide comes in. That sediment gets into the area with no activity. Over the years, it's beginning to choke off the river, and it's forcing traffic towards the western side where there's a large bed of inter-tidal vegetation. It's also causing sedimentation onto the adjacent property. It's eliminating the holding area for the boats coming from the channel into the marina. Many of those boats are deep draft boats. Those boats have no place to go. He's working with Pilots Point and his client, an adjacent property owner, and the CT DEEP. Because of the uniqueness of this situation, the CT DEEP is allowing the dredging. They will be developing an application to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) for sampling and analyzing the material. Conceivably, the materials dredged can be used for beach nourishment.

H. Plaut was concerned that this dredged material, if used as beach nourishment, could change the nature of the beach. R. Shickel said using this material as beach nourishment is only a possibility. It will depend on the information gathered from testing and analysis.

The current Patchogue River dredge permit for the Army Corps of Engineers dredge "Currituck" is valid until 2024.

D. Russell asked if it would be possible for the dredge spoils to be used as replenishment at Menunketesuck Island which is severely eroded. J. Rie suggested that idea be brought up with the CT DEEP. R. Shickel will give J. Rie information about who to contact at CT DEEP.

J. Rie suggested adding the Town's application to Pilots Point's application and get the whole sand bar dredged.

Motion to communicate with the CT DEEP and with Rob Shickel, representing Pilots Point, to gather more information and determine what can be done together to dredge the sand bar. The Harbor Management Commission is making no commitment at this time. The motion was made by E. Cusson; seconded by B. Charrette. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

H. Plaut asked if the HMC would hire a consultant to work with. J. Rie said he'd like to work with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the CT DEEP. Dredge permitting and planning has historically been handled by the Army Corps of Engineers in coordination with CT DEEP without a third-party consultant.

The Town is already represented by the Army Corps of Engineers because the Federal Government is obligated to maintain a federal navigation channel.

Motion for the Harbor Management Commission to sign the LWRD License Application Pre-Submission Pre-Consultation Form for the Pilots Point proposed dredging. The motion was made by E. Cusson; seconded by B. Charrette. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

The Pre-Consultation Form will be added to the CT DEEP application form.

The Westbrook Fire Department is asking for HMC support their idea to put a registration process in place for kayaks. Kayaks often float onto the beach or into the water, and the Fire Department is dispatched to find a missing person. If there was a contact sticker on each kayak, the owner could be contacted when the kayak is found. The HMC is not going to enforce the registration process, nor will they maintain and monitor it, but they do agree that it's a good idea.

Motion to The Harbor Management Commission endorse that contact information be place on a kayak so that the owner can be contacted if the kayak is lost, stolen or someone is missing or hurt. The motion was made by T. Fahey; seconded by E. Cusson. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Salt Island

There was nothing new to report.

New Business

LWRD License Application Pre-Submission Consultation Form for a 3 (three) foot by 152 (one hundred fifty-two) foot dock at 56 Indian Trail in Westbrook

The 3 (three) foot by 152 (one hundred fifty-two) raised dock over the marsh will be replacing the existing dock. The floating dock will be reconfigured.

Motion to sign the Pre-Submission Consultation Form for a 3 (three) foot by 152 (one hundred fifty-two) foot dock at 56 Indian Trail in Westbrook as submitted. The motion was made by E. Cusson; seconded by D. Arktop. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Old Business - There was no Old Business.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. was made by E. Cusson; seconded by T. Fahey. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen King, Recording Clerk