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**TOWN OF WESTBROOK**  
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 28, 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; Evan Cusson, Vice Chairman; Dean Arktop, Bob Charrette, Tom Fahey, Lee McNamar, Gary Nolf, Harry Plaut, Harbormaster; Dave Russell, Assistant Harbormaster and Ron Stevenson

**Also in attendance:** Ron Lyman

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

**Correspondence** – There was no new correspondence.

**Minutes:**

**Motion** to approve the August 24, 2021 Harbor Management Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted. The motion was made by E. Cusson; seconded by L. McNamar. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

**Bills:**

**Motion** to approve the invoices for Olson Sanitation for August and September for the port-a-potty for \$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 said there was an issue by the North Grove Beach area. A surveyor's stake was planted at the low tide line. He received several complaints, and he got it removed.

The No Trespassing signs have been removed from Duck Island.

## **Chairman's Report:**

The Commodore of the Duck Island Yacht Club spoke with J. Rie about shallow spots near the yacht club that will need to be dredged. J. Rie talked with the engineer from Pilot's Point Marina to see if the Marina and HMC could work together on permitting for the sand bar around buoy #6. J. Despite many attempts, J. Rie has not been able to talk with anyone from the Army Corps of Engineers yet about working with both the HMC and Pilot's Point about dredging. J. Rie has reached out to Joe Courtney's Office for assistance.

RiverCOG is considering requesting money to fund dredging. The dredging is on hold at this point.

**Motion** to move Beach Front Moorings to the beginning of the agenda. The motion was made by R. Stevenson; seconded by T. Fahey. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

## **Beach Front Moorings**

- **Jet Ski Docks and Specifications for Them**
- **Letter from Ron Lyman**

Ron Lyman sent a letter to the HMC requesting a discussion about jet ski docks. J. Rie explained that the HMC needed to discuss whether or not to allow docks for jet skis. Dave Russell said that jet ski docks can be hazardous to navigation, and they can be a safety issue. If someone builds a jet ski dock, what is to stop someone from putting up a boat dock instead? He is concerned about having those structures along the beach.

R. Lyman stores his jet ski at home. He said it's difficult to get it in or out of the water by himself. He said he can put it on a mooring, but it is difficult. He would like permission to build a jet ski dock.

D. Russell said it would be difficult to say yes to a jet ski dock and no to a boat dock. D. Russell explained that you can see a boat on a mooring, but you can't necessarily see a jet ski dock. He said at night, it would be an even bigger risk.

H. Plaut said in Old Lyme and Waterford, jet ski docks are allowed. They are not allowed in the navigational channel, but they are allowed in other areas. A jet ski is anchored by a three (3) point bracket system. Jet ski docks can vary in size, and they can be allowed without dock extensions. If allowed, there is a large possibility that jet ski docks will not be installed correctly, and that's when they become unsafe. H. Plaut said if the HMC allows jet ski docks, there will be a lot of them.

J. Rie suggested a permit fee of \$100.00, and that two (2) mooring balls be involved. In order to get a jet ski dock mooring, the Harbormaster would have to approve the location. The dock would need to be flagged. It would also have to be inspected by the Harbormaster.

T. Fahey asked if there was any data to support that a jet ski dock is a hazard. He asked if it's fair to prohibit jet ski docks if there's no data to suggest there's a problem.

B. Charrette said jet ski traffic has increased a lot. If jet ski docks are allowed, there will be a large number of them.

J. Rie suggested tabling this discussion until the next HMC meeting, and he'd like to have a written ballot vote.

**Motion** to table the jet ski dock discussion until the next hybrid Harbor Management Commission Meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., and vote on it via secret written ballot The motion was made by R. Stevenson; seconded by T. Fahey. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

- **Mooring Inspection Requirements**

Motion to require mooring applicants to certify that within the last two (2) years their mooring has been removed and inspected by a professional. The motion was made by B. Charrette; seconded by T. Fahey. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

This would relieve the HMC of the liability of inspecting the mooring. The mooring holder is responsible for any and all damages.

- **Mooring Renewal Notices**

H. Plaut brought the mooring applications for K. King, so she can create a mooring holder data base. Mooring holder email addresses will now be mandatory. J. Rie and H. Plaut will work together to revise the mooring registration form.

- **Mooring Permit Rates**

Westbrook is currently charging \$20.00 a year for mooring permits. J. Rie suggested raising the rate to \$30.00. There are thirty (30) beach moorings registered. There are seven (7) abandoned moorings to pull.

**Motion** to increase the mooring registration fee to \$30.00. The motion was made by G. Nolf; seconded by D. Arktop. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

### **Patchogue River Moorings**

- **Maintenance Schedule and Permit Rates**

The moorings will be pulled next year per the maintenance schedule.

R. Stevenson said there's currently a boat that's in violation. H. Plaut said that boat owner has been notified. R. Stevenson should have been removed by now. H. Plaut said he has spoken to the owner who said he would move his boat. H. Plaut will contact the boat owner notifying him

that he has twenty-four (24) hours to move the boat, or it will be towed, at the owner's expense. Also, if the boat owner doesn't comply, he will not get the mooring back next year.

The Patchogue River Moorings cost \$250.00. Commission members agree that rate will remain the same. There can be no moorings at Duck Island. The registration form will be reviewed and revised by H. Plaut and J. Rie. Email addresses on the application forms need to be mandatory.

### **Entry Channel Dredging**

This was discussed under the Chairman's Report.

**Old Business** - There was no Old Business.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 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