

Town of Guilford, CT
Harbor Management Commission
Town Hall, Park Street Guilford, CT 06437

A meeting of the Town of Guilford's Harbor Management Commission was held at
7:30 PM, Wednesday, April 26, 2017

New meeting place
Town Hall
Upstairs in Selectman's wing

APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: John Thommen (Acting as Vice-Chair), KJ Lee, Chris Tietjen, Keith Harvey

Members absent: Theresa Hedleston

Others present: CT State Appointed Guilford Harbormaster Fred Brisbois

John Thommen, Acting Vice-Chair (per the wishes of former Commission Chairwoman Alison Varian) made a motion to begin the meeting at 7:30PM.

- Public Forum: no members of the public present.
- Approval of the 2/22/2017 meeting minutes: Chris Tietjen saw no need for changes. John made motion to approve with no changes, KJ Lee seconded, all approve.
- State Harbormasters Report: There was also a quick review of the March report, as there was no March meeting.



THE OLD STONE HOUSE

STATE HARBOR MASTER TOWN OF GUILFORD, CT



To: Harbor Management Commission

Re: Monthly Report

Dt: 26 Apr 2017

Summary of Harbor Master activities since the last Harbor Management Commission meeting:

STATE ACTIVITIES:

- Received an email from Brian Golembiewski, DEEP, advising that DEEP has a COP to retain the dock, boat ramp, groin and nine stake/pulley moorings at the Leete's property at Beach Road. Brian wanted to know if I had any problems with this and asked if I issued permits for the line and pulley moorings. I advised that I had no concerns but would inquire the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) and forwarded the email to HMC. Permits are required for the line and pulley moorings. I started working this effort last year with Theresa. Some progress made, and plan to prioritize effort on the line and pulley permits for 2017. Theresa responded that she had no issues with the dock, boat ramp and groin.

INTERFACE WITH TOWN BOARDS /COMMISSIONS/OFFICES/ASSOCIATIONS:

- Received copies of two Port Authority Grant requests submitted by the Marina Commission: 1 to rebuild the sluice gate (\$40,000) and one to repair the bulkhead (\$90,000).
- Telephone conversation with Sue Robins, President of the Mulberry Point Association. She is co-trustee for an estate adjacent to the association's beach. The Association is seeking guidance on language to put in the deed that would protect the association's interests should a new owner want to place a mooring. I suggested: "That any type mooring and location must be approved by the Mulberry Point Association and have a permit issued by the State's appointed Harbor Master for Guilford". I pointed out that I was not aware of what, if any, enforcement authority the Association has, but I committed to her that I would coordinate any new mooring application off of Mulberry Point association property. I also followed this up with an email to her summarizing our discussion and my recommendation and agreed to meet with her after April 29 to clarify specific areas that Mulberry Point Association would like to review mooring applications.
- During an email exchange with the Shellfish Commission for approval of two new mooring applications, Chair Stephen Goldschmidt raised a concern regarding Bureau of Aquaculture constraints on density of moorings in a harbor and 'clusters'. After inquiring both the Shellfish Commission and my DEEP liaison, I have not been able to find a definition of what constitutes a 'cluster' or a limit on 'density'. I will continue to use my judgement for issuing permits by interpreting a 'cluster' as being vessels rafted to each other or multiple vessels on a single mooring (which I recall was a verbal agreement and control density by requiring that any vessel riding on its mooring shall not infringe on other moorings.

MOORINGS:

- Renewal notices were sent out March 18
- Audited Online mooring data base email output to confirm which of the 180 renewals sent out on 18 March actually were actually sent. Identified 5 that were not sent and reissued them
- **2017 Permit Status**
 - Approved: 88
 - Under review: 5
 - 2 new applications (1 awaiting confirmation of GPS coordinates, 1 is a possible duplicate)
 - 2 renewals (awaiting payment)

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS/OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Drove along shoreline of Chaffinch Island and Mulberry Point to assist Guilford Yacht Club Dockmaster in locating their missing buoy, R6. I located the buoy about 200 yards off of northern most point of Tuttle Point Road. GYC Dockmaster reported that they have lost several buoys due to insufficient scope.

Respectfully submitted,



Fred Brisbois
Connecticut Harbor Master
Town of Guilford

Discussion: John recently applied for a \$5,000.00 grant (SHIPP) for abandoned mooring retrieval. Chris discussed inability to place a mooring at a Mulberry Point property. The estate currently for sale is adjacent to the beach area. The beach area and ledge make this a poor location for a mooring.

Regarding "clusters": Per, BoA, there is no definition- this would be a judgement call. Per Fred, AV interpreted this as draft of boat should not sit on shellfish bed. Cluster of boats- 2 or more tied together?

The Shellfish Commission has a voice regarding new mooring applications, but cannot act on or withdraw old or existing mooring permits. Keith is now the Shellfish Commission representative for the Commission. Fred noted and discussed a Loophole for the HMC- if we want to enforce a restriction or restrictions, we must include it/them in the Harbor Management Plan.

John thanked Fred for his report and for his ongoing work for the Commission.

- Treasurers Report: Chris has assembled the report in an easy to read and understand format. He stated the budget needs to be discussed, as submittal is required in May 2017. John asked if there are any budgeted funds for abandoned mooring reclamation. Chris noted there is \$9850.00 in the budget for "hazard mitigation" which can address abandoned mooring reclamation. Chris asked if "gas/supplies for boat use" should be retained or eliminated. John suggested retaining, and adding an amount on the gas line item. Chris suggested \$200.00 for this. John asked if "hazard mitigation" could be considered a catchall. Keith Harvey asked if the "hazard mitigation" budget line item should be reduced from \$9850.00 to \$9650.00 to reflect amount for "gas/supplies for boat use". Chris stated this may interfere with how finance is doing their recordkeeping, and suggests the \$200.00 be added to the budget for "gas/supplies for boat use". The Commission reviewed the current Fiscal Years budget spreadsheet. Chris reported the budget seems to be adequate for the needs of the Commission. John made a motion to approve the 2018 Fiscal Year budget with an additional \$200.00 for gas/supplies for boat use. KH yes, CT KJ seconded, all approve.
- Approval of Bills and Vouchers:
Online Mooring- \$6.00 for February
Joan Dudley- \$37.00 for February meeting minutes
Chris made a motion to approve payment of bills, John seconded, all approve.
- New Business:

John would like to recognize Alison Varian for all her years of hard work and dedication to the Harbor Management Commission, Marina Commission and Shellfish Commission, as well as volunteering in various respects around the town of Guilford. The Commission acknowledges and respects her reluctant resignation, and wishes her and her husband well.

KJ distributed a comment sheet to the Commission for review. John asked to add to KJs comment sheet: over 10years; Chairperson for 3 years, and to please amend comments to a proclamation.

The Proclamation reads: "The Guilford Harbor Management Commission hereby resolves gratitude and appreciation of Alison Varian for her commitment and services as a member of the Harbor Management Commission for over 10 years and as Chairperson of the Commission for 3 years."

John suggested budgeting \$100 for a plaque. Fred suggested a memorial plate on a bench at the Guilford Town Dock. Chris asked where benches are situated. Fred said benches are situated at the end of the harbor. John felt the location would be appropriate and noted the bench would be overlooking where Alison's boat used to be. The Commission to discuss cost sharing with members of the Marina and Shellfish Commissions.

Discuss the election of officers/commissioners:

John states 2 members need to be elected. Keith is no longer an alternate. Cliff McGuire should be removed from the list online. Vacancy is Republican. John will discuss with Traci Brinkman in the Selectman's office April 27th, and also emailed Republican Ken Wilson during the meeting to request assistance finding acceptable candidates.

John restated that Keith will be moved up to a regular member. Fred to reach out to Marina Commission for an acceptable candidate.

John said that he will happily act as a Vice Chair, but does not feel he will be able to consistently make meetings as a full Chairperson would require. KJ would also prefer not to be Chair as he travels frequently. John may consider acting as Vice Chair on a longer term basis as long as he has assistance from others.

John suggested Pete Beauvais. Would there be a conflict of interest as a paid fireman? Fred can ask him, or maybe his father Butch would be interested.

Fred discussed teleconference calls- Commission Secretary Joan Dudley reported conference calls acceptable for members/voting; this was an issue Alison had asked her to follow up on several months prior. Members of the Commission on the telephone will meet quorum and may vote if able to hear, speak and be heard.

- Old Business- John wished to discuss how the seawall/dock at 49 Old Quarry Road was not presented to HMC before approval. It was approved by both the Town of Guilford and DEEP, but was never seen by HMC. Chris suggested a discussion with DEEP citing this example. It was unknown whether or not Alison was able to discuss this at the last DEEP meeting she attended.

Fred discussed a recent email exchange with Steve Goldschmidt, current Chairman of the Shellfish Commission regarding a project on mooring coordinates- will resurrect the project. GIS overlay for mooring number, ID, coordinates, vessel, draft of vessel, whether or no the vessel has a head. John asked if someone is physically taking coordinates of moorings. Fred replied no, the online system has this data.

- Adjourn: JT Motion to adjourn 8:44PM. Chris, KJ and Keith seconded, all approve.