

Regular Meeting Minutes
The Old Lyme Harbor Management Commission – In Person
August 8, 2023 at 7:00 PM

1. QUORUM / CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Members Present: David Acosta, Mike Barnes, Emerson Colwell (Alternate), Sloan Danenhower, Tom Meyer, Teri Lewis (Vice-chair), George Finley, Tom Kelo (Treasurer)

Members Present on Phone: Robert Stiles (Alternate)

Absent: Christopher Staab, Michael Presti (Co-Chair), Mike Magee (Secretary)

Guests: Scott Mitchell (Old Saybrook Harbormaster), Matthew Lynch (TowBoat US), Michael Aurelia (Open Space Commission)

Vice-chair Teri Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

2. HMC BUSINESS REPORTS

a. Clerk's Report: approve HMC meeting minutes for July 11, 2023

Mr. Kelo moved to accept the meeting minutes of July 11, 2023 and Mr. Finley seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

b. Treasurer's Report (Kelo) report review for July 2023.

Mr. Kelo was unable to get the financials from Town Hall for tonight's report.

Mr. Kelo reported that he had one outstanding invoice from H.S. Plaut Environmental in the amount of \$525. Mr. Kelo moved to pay the invoice and Sloan Danenhower seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

c. HMC membership openings

There are no new openings.

d. Correspondence

Ms. Lewis reported on an email that she received from Glenn Abrahamsson (Old Lyme Marina) regarding the increase in mooring fees this year of which his still remain unpaid. There was a discussion. Mr. Kelo and two others will talk to Glenn and inform him that the HMC will adjust the fees to \$75 for this year, with the 2024 mooring fees to go to \$100, reminding Glenn that he will have to abide by the rules set by this Commission regarding payment for mooring fees in a timely manner.

Mr. Kelo moved to adjust the HMC mooring fees for 2023 to \$75 each, and for the upcoming year 2024 the fees will revert back to \$100 each. People that have already paid the \$100 will be reimbursed or credited the difference. Mr. Danenhower seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

Ms. Lewis reported on correspondence received from the Coast Guard regarding H.S. Plaut Environmental's boat hitting the railroad bridge.

Ms. Lewis reported on phone calls from residents regarding a boat that had dragged downriver due to a mooring that was placed that was not fitting for a boat that size.

3. NEW PERMIT APPLICATIONS

There are no new applications.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Pilgrim Landing weed growth

Mr. Kelo moved to approve the expense for the placement of gravel under the kayak racks at Pilgrim Landing in order to help with the prevention of invasive vines including poison ivy that has become a problem. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

Mr. Kelo moved to move agenda item **New Business b Harbormaster Change** to this point in the agenda. Ms. Lewis seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

NEW BUSINESS

b. Harbormaster change

Ms. Lewis reported that Harry Plaut's term as Harbormaster has expired and the HMC is looking for a new regime going forward. Mr. Kelo moved that Harry Plaut will be removed as Harbormaster. Mr. Finley seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

Mr. Kelo moved to place Matthew Lynch as Acting Harbormaster and Scott Mitchell as Acting Deputy Harbormaster for the Town of Old Lyme with the State of Connecticut. Mr. Meyer seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

b. Mooring verification assignments update

Mr. Meyer reviewed the mooring verification report with the commission. The system illustrates where the HMC needs to focus. There was a discussion on the process for addressing rogue moorings of which there are many at this time.

HMC members were asked to think of ideas and submit via a google doc to Mr. Meyer to hash out at the next HMC meeting. Mr. Meyer, Mr. Lynch and Mr. Mitchell will put their heads together to create a timeline.

Mr. Meyer handed out his written Monthly Mooring Permit Report for review.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Tree removal at Hawks Nest Beach

This issue does not fall under the purview of the HMC.

b. Harbormaster change

Discussed earlier in the agenda.

6. HARBORMASTER

a. Harbormaster activity report

Ms. Lewis reported of a recent problem of very loud music coming from several boats at the same time in the Sound View / Miami Beach area. It was agreed how very bad this incident had been. One resident had called Troop F State Police and was told that there was nothing that they could do. The problems on the water are continuous. Mr. Kelo will continue to look into solving the problem with help from the police.

Ms. Lewis reported on a sailboat that hit the Baldwin Bridge with the top of its mast while passing under it.

Mr. Barnes stated that he had been contacted by Mr. Flagg from the Marine Division of the OLF D asking to be updated with any information pertaining to building the new railroad bridge. Ms. Lewis stated that the HMC had received no new information either in a very long time and that she will look into it.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Finley moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM and Mr. Danenhowe seconded the motion. SO VOTED.

The next meeting of the HMC will be on September 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Garbarino
Clerk