

Regular Meeting Minutes  
The Old Lyme Harbor Management Commission – In Person  
September 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM

**1. QUORUM / CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

**Members Present:** Mike Barnes, Emerson Colwell (alternate), Sloan Danenhowe, Mike Magee (secretary), Tom Meyer, Teri Lewis (co-chair), Michael Presti (co-chair), George Finley, Matthew Lynch (Harbormaster / ex-officio)

**Members Present on the Phone:** NONE

**Absent:** David Acosta, Christopher Staab, Tom Kelo

**Guests:** Geoff Steadman (on phone), Mike Aurelia, Gene Frantz, Christina Gotowka, David Provencher, Matt MacDonald, Katie Balocca

Vice-chair Mr. Presti called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Colwell was seated Mr. Staab.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**a. Geoff Steadman – Harbor Management Plan Revision**

Geoff Steadman was on the phone for the meeting. Mr. Steadman gave a brief history of the Harbor Management Plan to date. He is willing to work on updating the HMP with the Commission. Any mooring standards would be an addendum to the plan. Mr. Steadman will draft a proposal that will include the scope of work and the cost of his services and send to Ms. Lewis and Mr. Presti.

**b. Mike Aurelia – Open Stace Commission (Horseneck Creek Landing)**

Mr. Aurelia gave his monthly report to the Commission. He stated that the OSC had hired a new land steward. He explained how the right of ways work with regard to maintenance and signage at Horseneck Creek Landing. Any responsibilities of the Town were discussed. Signage in question will be removed and re-located at a later date. Attorney Ed Cassela has been consulted on this matter. Mr. Magee asked Mr. Aurelia why the HMC was not kept in the loop on a matter in the July 24 minutes of the OSC.

**c. Other Public Comment**

Matt MacDonald spoke regarding his interest in becoming a mooring vendor. His experience is vast. He inquired about the HMC standards, and talked about inspection frequency.

Katie Balocca, from the Selectmen's Office, spoke to the Commission about the new facebook page for the HMC. She stated that there is a verbal policy that facebook pages are not allowed for boards and commissions. It was decided to pause the page for the next 24 hours. She will meet with HMC co-chairs tomorrow to review next steps. Discussion tabled at this point.

Mr. Meyer stated his support for creating an HMC Communications Plan. He volunteered to draft a plan and present to members.

Gene Frantz from Sound Diving and Salvage, LLC introduced himself. He had submitted his credentials to the HMC earlier and would like to be considered as a mooring vendor.

Christina Gotowka, from Library Lane, spoke about the flooding problems on Library Lane and the overgrowth of fragmities growing in the Duck River at Library Lane. Concerned about all the runoff from the roads and possibly the school fields. She stated that the natural habitat has dissappeared. Ms. Lewis will write a letter to the DEEP and loop in the Inlands / Wetlands Commission on this matter.

### **3. HMC BUSINESS REPORTS**

#### **a. Clerk's Report: approve HMC meeting minutes for August 8, 2023**

George Finley moved to accept the meeting minutes of August 8, 2023 and Tom Meyer seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

#### **b. Treasurer's Report (Kelo) report review for August 2023.**

Tom Kelo was not at the meeting and no report was given.

#### **c. HMC membership openings – NONE**

Ms. Lewis reminded members that missing meetings could lead to members being removed from the Commission.

#### **d. Correspondence**

**Gene A. Frantz, Sound Diving and Salvage, LLC, approved mooring vendor request**

**Christina Gotowka, Duck River at Library Lane dredge inquiry (Lewis)**

#### **Harbormaster letter to Governor's office for signature (Presti)**

Mr. Presti reported that a letter to the Governor's office was sent regarding the appointment of Matthew Lynch as Harbormaster in Old Lyme.

#### **HMC – Year in Review (Presti)**

Mr. Presti reviewed the document and members were fine with it.

#### **4. NEW PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

##### **a. 29 McCurdy Road, proposed new dock application - David R. Provencher, AIA**

Mr. Provencher made a presentation of a new dock application for 29 McCurdy Road. The dock will be for kayaks. No objections were made by the HMC. Mr. Presti signed off on the COP.

##### **b. 28 Homestead Circle, Ms. Hilary Reid**

Members reviewed the application and found it to be in compliance with the Harbor Management Plan.

#### **5. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **a. Glen Abrahamson – Old Lyme Marina mooring invoice (Lewis)**

Mr. Danenhower and Mr. Lynch will be meeting with Mr. Abrahamson in the near future.

##### **b. Work party for Pilgrim Landing site maintenance (volunteers possibly from CGA, (Presti)**

This will be planned for Spring 2024.

##### **c. Tantummaheag update (Lewis)**

Ms. Lewis stated that this matter is still in litigation.

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **a. Hains Park kayak rack (Lewis)**

Ms. Lewis reported on the Hains Park Enhancement sub-committee meeting. A kayak rack for the Park was suggested at the last meeting and she will re-visit this request at a future PRC meeting.

##### **b. Docks – boards need replacing for next season (Magee / Finley)**

Mr. Magee and Mr. Finley will make needed repairs to the docks before they are put in the water in Spring 2024.

##### **c. Mooring ball pulls and end of season plan (Lewis)**

Mr. Meyer reviewed his draft of a letter that will be sent to all 2023 mooring holders with questions asked and answers given.

Mr. Meyer gave his monthly mooring report. Handouts were provided. His follow up actions: continue private permit processing and sticker delivery, continue kayak processing (paper forms) (1 space remaining), finalize district 1 dinghy rack spaces (all spaces claimed – working with boaters), need fees from Old Lyme Marina

Ms. Lewis reported that Scott Mitchell will not be acting Deputy Harbormaster as he does not feel he could devote the time the position would require at this time.

## **7. HARBORMASTER**

### **a. Harbormaster activity report (Plaut)**

Mr. Lynch gave a detailed report of procedures and his activity of duties for the past month. Handouts were provided.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Danenhower moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 PM and Mr. Colwell seconded the motion. SO VOTED.

**The next meeting of the HMC will be on October 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM.**

Submitted by,

Mary Ellen Garbarino (Clerk)