

Town of Waterford Harbor Management Commission

Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, September 2, 2026

5:00 p.m. – Police Department Training Room

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2026 SEP - 3 A 9:38
ATTEST: David I. Crocker
TOWN CLERK

1. Establish a quorum and call the meeting to order.

Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. after establishing a quorum. Present were Commissioners Hughes, Butts, Jr., Arfi, DeRosa, and Jamroga. Absent were Commissioners Porter, Wise, Crocker and Keatley. Also present was Harbor Master David Crocker.

2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of the August 5, 2026, regular meeting minutes

Motion made by Commissioner DeRosa, seconded by Commissioner Jamroga to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. All in favor, motion carried.

4. Harbor Master Report

Harbor Master Crocker discussed a meeting with the Port Authority that addressed the issue of abandoned watercraft vessels in the Connecticut waterways. The Commission discussed several abandoned vessels in Waterford that should be addressed. Harbor Master Crocker stated he will investigate them. He discussed the catamaran that broke loose in the Niantic River. He continues to review and sign mooring and pulley pole permits and stated there have been few issues this season.

5. Correspondence

- a. The Commission members reviewed an article in the Day newspaper published August 22, 2026, titled "Dredging among recommendations for Alewife Cove".
- b. The Commission discussed correspondence from the CT Port Authority regarding Freight Group and Funding Opportunities.

6. New Business

- a. Application from DOCKO, Sound Engineering Associates, LLC, Mystic CT for dock modifications located at 202-A Niantic River Road, Waterford, CT 06385

Chairman Hughes suggested keeping this on the agenda until next month to give the applicant an opportunity to address the Commission.

- b. Certificate of Permission #202609646-COP 7 Riverside Drive from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection.

Chairman Hughes stated the DEEP has reviewed this proposal and they do not have issue with the project moving forward.

7. Old Business

- a. Update regarding the 2026 mooring and pulley pole applications to date and establish a date to go out to tag delinquent moorings for removal.

Chairman Hughes reviewed the number of permits and pulley poles issued this year and stated that the season is coming to an end. To date there are less than ten pending applications that are waiting on mooring inspections. The season has not presented many issues with permitting and it is time to schedule a date to go out to tag the delinquent moorings. Emails have been sent out to those that had mooring or pulley pole permits last season but that have not applied this season. Commissioners Hughes, Butts, Jr. and Jamroga volunteered to help tag moorings once a date is established. The Commission discussed going out late September, early October and will coordinate to find a date that works best for all involved. Harbor Master Crocker suggested taking pictures of the delinquent buoys with clear background markers and coordinates to determine their exact location when they are out looking for them for removal.

Chairman Hughes suggested that Harbor Master Crocker order 250 sets of stickers for permitted applicants for the 2027 season.

- b. Update regarding progress to date with the approval of the amended Harbor Management Plan and Maps.

Chairman Hughes has not received an update from the Town Attorney and Commissioner Wise has sent an email indicating that he does not have an update this month. This item will stay on the agenda for next month.

- c. Discussion regarding the Waterford Day Parade.

Chairman Hughes participated in the parade with his grandchildren again this year. He stated it was a hot day, but everyone had fun and the event was well attended.

- d. Update regarding the Mago Point Dock project.

Chairman Hughes attended the ceremony for the funding of the project. The grant received was one hundred and twenty-five thousand and the Town of Waterford matched the one hundred twenty-five thousand for a total of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to be used for the much-needed repairs to the dock. To date the Town has not picked a contractor to do the repairs but the funding is in place to do so. Chairman Hughes forwarded several names of local qualified candidates for the job.

Chairman Hughes discussed the many fishing line receptacles in the area and stated he has been cleaning them out as he sees them filled and discussed the orange kayak stickers required for kayaks as of this season. He stated he wrote a letter to Three Belles in support of their plan for an educational kayak tour to include buoys along the Niantic River pending approval from DEEP and homeowner consent along the route with riparian rights.

8. Public comment relating to Harbor Management Commission business only
9. Adjournment

There being nothing further to discuss the Commission adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Harbor Management Commission