

Town of Waterford Harbor Management Commission
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, October 7, 2026
5:00 p.m. Police Department Training Room

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., Jamroga, DeRosa, Arfi, Porter and Keatley. Absent were Commissioners Wise and Crocker. Also present was Mike Theiler from Jeanette Fisheries.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of the September 2, 2026, regular meeting minutes

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

4. Harbor Master Report

Harbor Master Crocker was not present to give his report at this meeting.

5. Correspondence

Chairman Hughes reviewed recent correspondence with the Commissioners including a Facebook post regarding abandoned pulley poles at the corner of Third and Fourth Avenues. A resident had complained that the poles are dangerous to swimmers and should be removed. He has been in contact with Public Works who have offered to take away the rusty poles that have already been pulled from the water if someone from the Commission is willing to put them out by the road. Chairman Hughes has tagged the pulley poles that are currently in the water for removal if an owner does not come forward to claim them.

The Chairman has published a Public Notice to inform the public that the Harbor Master has begun checking moorings in the Waterford Harbor for 2026 delinquent mooring permits. Unpermitted mooring will be stickered and are subject to removal by the Harbor Master at the expense of the owner. All mooring gear that was pulled from the Waterford Harbor in 2025 and prior will be disposed of by the Harbor Master if not yet claimed by the owners.

6. New Business

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

The applicant has not attended the past two meetings to discuss the project with the Commission members. Chairman Hughes offered to investigate the project to determine the extent of the work requested to determine if the project will negatively impact the Harbor Management Plan. He requested this item remain on the agenda for discussion next month.

- b. Review and vote to accept and forward the 2026 Harbor Management Commission Annual Report requested by the Finance Department.

Chairman Hughes has drafted the 2026 Annual Report and will send the document to the Commission members for input and approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

- c. Draft the meeting dates for the 2027 regularly scheduled meetings and forward the dates to the Town Clerk as requested.

The Commission has secured a meeting room at the Town Hall for all the 2027 regularly scheduled meetings. The Commission will meet at 5:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month except for meeting dates that fall on holidays.

Motion made by Commissioner Jamroga, seconded by Commissioner DeRosa to approve the 2027 meeting schedule and to file the schedule with the Town Clerks office. All in favor, motion carried.

7. Old Business

- a. Update regarding the 2026 mooring and pulley pole applications to date.

The 2026 boating season has wrapped up with 173 moorings processed this season. There are two applications pending payment that the Commission hopes to receive this month.

- b. Establish a date for the Commission to go out to tag delinquent moorings for removal.

Chairman Hughes suggested October 14, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. to go out to tag moorings in Jordan Cove and the Niantic River. Commissioners Jamroga, Butts, Jr., Porter and Hughes volunteered to go out to tag the delinquent moorings they find with Deputy Harbor Master Miller.

c. Update regarding progress to date with the approval of the amended Harbor Management Plan and maps.

Chairman Hughes received a notice from Commissioner Wise indicating that he plans to meet with the Town Attorney to discuss the amendments to the Plan. Commissioners Porter and Arfi stated they would like to attend the meeting with the attorney with Commissioner Wise as they are on the sub-committee and have been involved in the process to amend the Plan. Chairman Hughes suggested the updates made be first presented by the subcommittee to the Commission followed by a meeting with the Town Attorney.

d. Update regarding the Mago Point Dock project.

Chairman Hughes stated that Gary Schneider has been in contact with DOCKO to discuss the improvements to the dock. The Town received a one hundred twenty-five-thousand-dollar grant to use toward the improvements, and the Town matched the grant with an additional one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars for a total of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars secured for the improvements.

8. Public comment relating to Harbor Management Commission business only

Mike Theiler, owner of Jeanette Fisheries was present to speak in favor of an online mooring permit system, stating that it is a more efficient approach to issuing mooring and pulley pole permits that allows contractors and the Commission access to more precise information and up to date real time information. Mooring applicants and contractors can download documents online and pay fees via credit card. He believes that the Waterford Harbor Management Commission would benefit greatly from the use of the software. Chairman Hughes stated he will investigate the program and thanked Mr. Theiler for his input.

9. Adjournment

There being nothing further to discuss the Commission adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Waterford Harbor Management
Commission