

Waterford Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 7, 2024
Waterford Police Station Training Room
5:00 p.m.

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WATERFORD, CT

2024 AUG -8 | P 3: 20

ATTEST: *E. J. Camps*
TOWN CLERK

1. Establish a Quorum and Call the Meeting to Order

Acting Chairman Buths, Jr. called the regular meeting of the Harbor Management Commission to order in the absence of Chairman Hughes, at 5:00 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

Present were Commissioners Buths, Jr., Hamsher, DeRosa, Dutton, Porter, Wise and Jamroga. Absent were Commissioners Hughes, Crocker and Bunnell.

Also present was Harbor Master David Crocker and visitor with interest in joining the Commission, Serge Arfi.

The Commission welcomed newly appointed member, Jerry Porter to the Commission and everyone introduced themselves.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance stood for and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of the June 5, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Wise, seconded by Commissioner Jamroga to approve the June 5, 2024, meeting minutes as filed. Voice vote, 7-0, all in favor, motion carried.

4. Harbor Master Report

Harbor Master Crocker discussed the enforcement phase for moorings in the water that have not applied for 2024 Mooring Permits. He explained that the moorings will get tagged for removal and if they are not removed the Commission will have them removed at the owners expense.

5. Correspondence

There are two new dock applications for review at the September meeting.

6. New Business

7. Old Business

- a. Discussion Regarding Progress with Coordinating a Meeting with Local Harbor Management Commissions.

Chairman Hughes has indicated that he has contacted some who have expressed interest in meeting with the Waterford Harbor Management Commission, and he will update the Commission at the next meeting with any progress he has made. The Commission is hopeful that the meetings will benefit all involved and look forward to meeting with them.

- b. Update regarding Progress with the 2024 Mooring and Pully Pole Applications to Include Revenue Generated to Date.

The permitting process is starting to slow down, with approximately two hundred permits sent out to date with over ten thousand dollars in revenue. Emails have gone out to those that have not applied for a permit this year but had one last year, explaining that the Commission is currently in the enforcement phase for moorings that do not have 2024 stickers. Mooring inspections and Certificate of Decal are holding up the remaining partial permits, but the process is moving along. Discussions were held regarding how to best streamline the process for next season. Overall, it has been a very productive couple of months processing mooring permits with many satisfied customers securing their 2024 mooring permits.

On August 5, 2024, the Waterford Representative Town Meeting unanimously approved the rate increase for the mooring permits from fifty dollars (\$50) for a mooring renewal fee to seventy-five dollars (\$75) and a new mooring fee from seventy-five dollars (\$75) to one hundred dollars (\$100) effective January 1, 2024, as requested by and voted on by the Harbor Management Commission to be in line with the Town of East Lyme rates. Both Commissions share the same waterway and should have the same rates. The additional money also helps to offset the costs of clerical support, office supplies, the Harbor Master boat repairs and usage, and any related Harbor Management Commission expenses incurred throughout the year.

- c. Discussion Regarding Updating the Existing Harbor Plan.

Commissioner Wise suggested the Commission look at amending the existing Harbor Management Plan as it has not been updated since 2013. The Commission members are in favor of reviewing and implementing changes where there is a need and Harbor Master Crocker stated he will request the copy of the Plan that the State of Connecticut has on file and send it out to the Commission members to use as the base line for the amendments.

- d. Discussion Regarding Harbor Management Commission Participation in the Town Parade Scheduled for August 10, 2024.

There was no interest from anyone present to participate in the Town parade. Chairman Hughes has previously stated he would march in the parade to represent the Harbor Management Commission.

8. Public Comment Relating to Waterford Harbor Management Commission Business Only

Serge Arfi discussed how his father had once been a member of the Harbor Management Commission and he has expressed interest in joining the Commission when a position becomes vacant. He offered his help to the Commission with reviewing the Harbor Management Plan and stated he will be back to attend future meetings.

9. Adjournment

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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