



TOWN OF WESTBROOK
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

UNAPPROVED MINUTES FROM AUGUST 25, 2020
WESTBROOK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Attendance/Roll Call: John Rie, Chairman; Evan Cusson, Vice Chair; Dean Arktop, Andy Calderoni, Bob Charrette, Tom Fahey, Lee McNamar, Gary Nolf and Ronny Stevenson

Absent: Harry Plaut, Harbormaster

Call to order: J. Rie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes:

Motion to approve the June 16, 2020 Harbor Management Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted was made E. Cusson; seconded by R. Stevenson. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Bills:

Motion to pay Olsen Sanitation \$300.00 for the port a potty for June, July and August was made by E. Cusson; seconded by R. Stevenson. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Motion to pay Harry Plaut his June, July and August pay, at \$250.00 per month and to automatically pay Harry Plaut \$250.00 per month for the year was made E. Cusson; seconded by R. Stevenson. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Motion to pay Harry Plaut \$1,670.00 for a new no wake buoy, installation, chain etc. was made by A. Calderoni and seconded by E. Cusson. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Motion to pay Harry Plaut for removing 12 abandoned moorings and relocating 2 moorings after Tropical Storm Isais for a total of \$1,450.00 was made by R. Stevenson and seconded by E. Cusson. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Motion to pay Recording Clerk Kathy King \$116.90 was made E. Cusson; seconded by R. Stevenson. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Harbormaster's Report:

H. Plaut was not in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Chairman's Report:

J. Rie will be submitting an article to Westbrook Events Magazine updating the public on what's happening with the Harbor Management Commission. He'll include information about the swim platforms, docks and jet ski floats.

The beach associations have been working with H. Plaut to identify abandoned moorings. There is money in the mooring fees budget to pay for the mooring removals.

The Board of Selectman had a special meeting about 2 weeks ago, and they discussed the fireworks that were set off on Duck Island over the July 4th weekend. Planning is well underway to make sure that does not happen again. Next year, both the police boat and the Harbormaster will be out there to be sure no one trespasses on the island, and no fireworks will be set off.

Four "No Trespassing" signs will be put out on Duck Island next spring.

The Conservation Commission has interns on Salt Island which will help control the crowds there.

The Army Corps of Engineers did a survey of the channels in preparation for possible dredging in the spring.

There were multiple complaints about a jet ski dock with a mooring on it at a private residence. The jet ski dock will be removed. The house has been sold.

E. Cusson suggested putting language in the Harbor Management Plan prohibiting fixed docks for jet skis in front of private residences.

Old Business

1. Beach and Patchogue River Moorings – report and removal of abandoned moorings

There are 88 Beach Moorings taken. There will be more permits received from people whose moorings were going to be pulled.

2. Duck Island – CT DEEP Regulations and Enforcement/ Signage

This was discussed under Chairman's Report.

3. Beach Moorings

A. Calderoni said the Council of Beaches has been receiving complaints about moorings. He said the jet ski dock mentioned above was one of the complaints.

When the tide is low, there are jet skis and moorings on the sand bars. This is especially prevalent at Middle Beach. A. Calderoni said he has seen many moorings that are not under water at low tide. The moorings need to be 2 feet below the surface at low tide.

New Business

1. Moored swim platforms, docks and jet ski floats

Dave Russell, Assistant Harbor Master, does not feel these should be allowed due to safety reasons. They don't have lights on them, and he feels they are dangerous.

Commission members agreed that the prohibition of moored swim platforms, docks and jet ski floats should be added to the Harbor Management Plan. J. Rie will work on the language amendment. Once the Harbor Management Commission approves the change, it will go to the Board of Selectmen and to Town Meeting for approval.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:21 p.m. was made E. Cusson; seconded by R. Stevenson. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King

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Recording Clerk