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TOWN OF WESTBROOK
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

UNAPPROVED MINUTES FOR JUNE 28, 2022
WESTBROOK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
866 Boston Post Road, Mulvey Municipal Building
6:00 p.m., South Conference Meeting Room

Attendance/Roll Call: John Rie, Chairman; Dean Artkop, Andy Calderoni, Bob Charrette, Tom Fahey, Harry Plaut, Harbormaster; Dave Russell, Assistant Harbormaster and Ronny Stevenson

Absent: Evan Cusson, Vice Chair; Gary Nolf and Mike Panella

Also Present: Recording Clerk Kathleen King and property owner requesting dredging, Rob Shickel

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

Minutes: May 24, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes from May 24, 2022 as submitted with the following correction: on page 2 of the minutes, paragraph 2, change “The dredging has been scheduled for June 6 – 10, 2022, which will be a Monday through Friday” to “a Friday to Sunday.” The motion was made by R. Stevenson; seconded by T. Fahey. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Bills:

Motion to approve Invoice #34165 for \$110.44 for Regional Restrooms, Inc., for the porta potty. The motion was made by R. Stevenson; seconded by T. Fahey. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Motion to pay Invoice #5012 for payment of \$150.00 to Harry Plaut for setting a rock buoy as submitted. The motion was made by A. Calderoni; seconded by D. Arktop. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Correspondence:

There was no new correspondence.

Harbormaster's Report:

H. Plaut said he received a lot of complaints as a result of the dredging. Residents said some of the debris from the dredge ended up on their beaches. R. Stevenson said that the debris on the beaches has nothing to do with the dredging.

All of the buoys have been placed in their correct spots. J. Rie, H. Plaut and H. Plaut's Assistant have been working on the online mooring permit system.

H. Plaut discussed the problem of people getting stranded out on Salt Island when the tide comes in. There was even a fatality in past years due to someone getting stranded there. J. Rie spoke to the Conservation Commission about this problem. The CC said they felt Salt Island could be closed during the birding season, but they are deferring to the Board of Selectmen for a final decision. The CC said they would reach out to the Water's Edge to ask them to put up signage to warn their guests of the potential issue with getting stranded on Salt Island from the incoming high tide. In addition, warning signs will be posted on the beach in multiple languages. J. Rie asked D. Russell if he can find out where the people going out to Salt Island are coming from. He wants to be sure they are warned.

Chairman's Report:

J. Rie announced that the online mooring permitting system is now live! One application has already been received.

Old Business:

- **Dredging Results and Future Plans**

J. Rie reported that Sound Side Construction was able to remove piling #6. The dredging by the USACE dredge Murden was well done. They also dredged the west side of the channel going out. H. Plaut put the #6 buoy back in. The buoys are all in the right place now.

- **Online Mooring Status**

J. Rie explained that even though not all of the mooring permits are in the new live permitting system, the mooring renewal notices will be based on the entire mooring list. The town will pay Online Moorings \$6.00 for each mooring application. Matt Calouro from Online Moorings emailed J. Rie the actual coordinates for the Eastern and Western town boundary lines on 6/28/2022.

- **Budget Status 2021-2022**

The HMC budget for 2021-2022 was for \$11,353.00. The HMC spent \$9,482.00.

New Business

- **DEEP FORMS**

- **Certificate of Permission (COP) Application – Spero dredging application for the 54 Captains Drive site – Rob Shickel**

R. Shickel explained that this request involves a matter from last year. He is applying for a new permit to dredge the area. That area is the riparian area in front of the Sparrow property. If they don't dredge, the sand and silt will come back. There is a gas dock nearby which has high traffic which causes more siltation. The CT DEEP requires the concurrence from the HMC that they approve the project. Last year, the HMC signed the Pre-Consultation Form. That form goes to the Army Corps of Engineers. R. Shickel completed a package for the HMC which includes a letter, a survey that was used for the previous dredging and the form signed and approved by the HMC last year.

J. Rie signed the form with approval from the HMC.

- **Pre-Submission Consultation Form**

J. Rie explained that in summary, they are correcting the grade and redoing the seawall. The HMC has no action to take. There is a packet from Sound Engineering Associates, LLC detailing the site and work to be done.

1. **Town of Westbrook Middle Beach Salt Island and Pepperidge Avenue – Pipe inspection and repair, rip rap drainage areas needing improvements**

Motion to approve the repair of the pipe and repair the rip rap drainage areas needing improvements. The motion was made by B. Charrette; seconded by D. Arktop. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

- **Special Reserve Fund – mooring fees and expenses**

There is a reserve fund established for moorings. Mooring fees deposited were \$3,580.00. The mooring maintenance spent was \$2,504.00. The balance for mooring maintenance is \$8,868.00.

- **Report on Harbormaster Annual Review**

J. Rie and E. Cusson met with H. Plaut for his annual review. They voted to keep him on as Harbormaster.

D. Russell shared an old aerial photo of Westbrook from 1934 showing some of the beaches and jetties.

J. Rie gave D. Russell permission for another sign for the #7 Piling.

D. Russell talked about the plans for patrols for the 4th of July weekend.

J. Rie said he may ask for a volunteer or two to GPS the moorings. A. Calderoni volunteered.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. was made by R. Stevenson; seconded by A. Calderoni. All members voted in favor, and the motion passed.

As a reminder, there is no HMC Meeting in July. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the HMC will be August 23.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen King, Recording Clerk