



HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Office of the First Selectman
101 Field Point Road
Greenwich, CT 06836-2540
Phone: 203-622-7713

Bernard Armstrong, Chairman
Mike Van Oss, Vice Chairman
Lile Gibbons, Secretary

HMC minutes of July 19, 2023-APPROVED

Commissioners Present

Bernard Armstrong, Chairman
Mike Van Oss, vice-Chairman
Lile Gibbons, Secretary
Jason Halio
Beth Forbes
Ed Keller
Chris Lagano
Ty Anderson

Commissioners Absent

Skip Parker

Others Present

Paul Cappiali, Harbormaster
Geoff Steadman, HMC consultant
Janet McGuigan, BOS
Kris Shockley, Marine Police
Brian Kerzner, P&R
Jenny Larkin, IT

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:04 p.m.
2. Ty Anderson moved approval of the June 21st minutes. Lile Gibbons seconded. Approved unanimously.
3. Chairman's report
 - a. Congratulations to Paul Cappialo who was reappointed by the Governor to serve as Greenwich's Harbormaster for the next 3 years.
 - b. The HMC boat is working well. All commissioners are invited to join the Harbormaster to cruise of Greenwich harbors.
4. Mooring Committee report
 - a. John Vigilante from Lynx Log gave a report on how the electronic mooring records are maintained by his company. Lynx Log started working for Greenwich six years

- ago. Their software designed to match all local rules and regs. The Greenwich vendors' information isn't online yet but will be soon. Need vendor training (no extra charge). Security and confidentiality of vendors key. Putting NOA maps and tidal currents into the system. Putting halos (swing ratios) of vessels into system.
- b. Ed Keller reported the Mooring Committee met last Monday. Discussed pricing of moorings as well as the need for new policies. No votes taken. Each mooring area has its own challenges. Whatever policies put into practice, should be tried for a season before becoming regulations.
5. Harbormaster report (see attached)
 - a. The \$20,000 for the removal of the lobster traps in the Mianus River has been incurred by the BET for the 2023-24 fiscal year.
 - b. The kelp farm off the back of Captain's Island is not a hindrance to boaters.
 - c. Some extra buoys now in place.
 - d. Zawoy from DEEP is interested in the idea of a state owned utility boat for all harbormasters to use in pulling delinquent moorings.
 6. Office staffing—continuing to interview
 7. Finance Committee
Revenue was \$54,000 last year with \$57,000 budgeted for 2022-23. \$73,000 collected this year which included \$12,000 for late fees from previous year. Need to analyze these extra fees as part of the consideration of raising mooring fees.
 8. Applications Review Committee
 - a. 655 Steamboat Road COPP
 - b. 25 Smith Road. Applicant supplied the additional information requested last month. Normal setback from the navigation channel is 24 feet. USACE needs to review as proposal extends further into federal navigation waters than before and also enlarges the footprint of the existing dock. Ty Anderson moved “the HMC finds this proposal inconsistent with the HM plan as the proposal encroaches into the navigation project”. Lile Gibbons seconded. Unanimous.
 9. State legislative changes—no update
No change until next legislative session
 10. Old Business
 - a. Grass Island dredge project (soil testing) cannot start until the beginning of the USACE fiscal year which is 10/1/23.
 - b. Water hazards report—see Harbormaster report
 - c. Speed buoy deployment—ready to be deployed as soon as correct GPS coordinates are sent to Brian Kerzner
 - d. Mooring fees. Jason Halio presented a working draft outlining several scenarios on possible mooring rate increases. Remarked that all neighboring communities have different rates and “add-ons” so difficult to compare fees between towns. Robust discussion by the commissioners. Agreed we need to have specific details as to the

necessity and justification of a mooring rate increase before presenting our information to the BET, the BOS and the RTM. See Attached memo.

- e. Peter Alexander gave a presentation on a method for removing contaminants from dredged materials.

11. Public Comment-none

12. Adjournment. Jason Halio moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Lile Gibbons seconded. Unanimous.



**Harbor Management Commission
Selectmen's Office
101 Field Point Road
Greenwich, CT 06836-2540
203-622-7713**

Bernard Armstrong, Chairman
Lile Gibbons, Secretary
Mike Van Oss, Vice Chairman

**Meeting Notice
Harbor Management Commission
July 19, 2023 Agenda
6:00 P.M.
Mazza Room and ZOOM**

Here is the link to the ZOOM meeting

<https://greenwichct.zoom.us/j/84205004136?pwd=dy8wZlV5YlBKNlUyM2Y2ZlVStVQ09>

- 1) Call to Order Chairman Armstrong
- 2) Approval of Minutes for June 21st
- 3) Chairman's Report Chairman Armstrong
- 4) Mooring Chairman Report Ed Keller
- 5) Harbor Master Report Paul Cappiali
- 6) Office Staffing Armstrong/Keller

- 7) Finance Committee F2023 Finals (Anderson)

- 8) Applications Review Committee Report (Beth Forbes, Ty Anderson)
 - a. 655 Steamboat COPP
 - b. Others TBD
- 9) State legislative changes Lile Gibbons/Geoff Steadman
- 10) Old Business
 - a. Grass Island Dredge/ACOE Status (McGuigan)
 - b. Water Hazards Committee Report (Skip Parker), Paul Cappiali
 - c. Captain Harbor Speed Buoy Deployment Brian Kerzner
 - d. HMC's Mooring Software John Vigilante

New Business

- e. Mooring Fee Rate Increase Jason Halio
- f.

11) Public Comment

12) Adjournment

Bernard Armstrong, Chairman

The Town complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination, equal opportunity, affirmative action, and providing reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities.

If you require an accommodation to participate, please contact the Commissioner of Human Services at 203-622-3800 .Alan Barry was replaced by Demetria Nelson demetria.nelson@greenwichct.org. The phone number remains the same.

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
HARBOR MASTER
OF
GREENWICH**

Harbor Master Report for the June 19, 2023 Harbor Management Commission Meeting

- Thank you for your confidence and support related to my reappointment effective June 30th for a full 3-year term.
- We are still working diligently with the HMC office to get the moorings cataloged and into a system that can maintain itself. This will take 12 to 18 months.
- I am working with DEEP to follow the procedures dictated by them to come to a final conclusion for the lobster trap barges in the Cos Cob River harbor.
 - Working closely with both owners of the docks and traps.
 - Working closely with DEEP enforcement.
 - Took enforcement to inspect the lobster trap barges.
 - Working closely with Skip Parker to keep him as informed.
 - Working with instructions from DEEP to make sure that all legal rights of the owners are respected.
- Worked with the owners of Cos Cob Kelp Farm to get the farm into compliance.
 - I will continue to work closely and hope to get more navigational markers on the Farm for 2024 season.
- Regular patrols in the Harbor Master boat to maintain a presence.
 - Patrolled harbors during Greenwich fireworks.
- DEEP has hired a new liaison for Harbor Master in Connecticut.
- Talking to DEEP about (re) starting Harbor Master association.
 - Hope to mechanize authorities.
 - Harbor Master can write citations but there is currently no mechanism to do so.
- Talking to DEEP about a State utility boat that would be made available to Harbor Master and be capable of pulling delinquent moorings.
- Harbor Master boat forward bilge is broken, the Starboard navigation and Stern lights are out.

Paul Cappiali, Greenwich Harbormaster

From: Jason Halio <jasonhalio@gmail.com>
Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 at 12:46 PM
To: Home <jasonhalio@gmail.com>
Subject: Outline for Mooring Committee Meeting

I. **Projected Mooring Revenues for 2023**

II. **History of Mooring Fee timeline**

2010 mooring fee increased to \$100
 2011 mooring fee was increased to 135, which was 100 permit fee and onetime 35 administrative fee
 2013 fee was reduced to 75 because there was a surplus of funds, among other reasons

 2014-2016-◇ what happened here? Did fee go down? Did it get abolished?

 2017 fee was \$75
 2018 fee of 75 was approved (Staying the same as last year; not to exceed State cap of \$200)

III. **Study of Current Mooring Fees Along CT Coast**

Town	Fees	Footnotes
Westport	\$6	
Darien	\$15	e
Guilford	\$25	o
East Hampton	\$25	
Huntington	\$40	
Branford	\$50	f
Mystic	\$50	l
Lyme	\$50	p
Stamford	\$65	
East Lyme	\$75	
Essex	\$80	h
Norwalk	\$100	k
Stonington	\$100	
Wethersfield	\$125	n
Fairfield	\$150	m
Chester	\$155	
Southport	\$207	b, c
Bridgeport	\$212	
New Rochelle	\$240	l, j
Rye	\$300	
Mamaroneck	\$300	d, g
Clinton	\$1,700	q
Average	\$113	

IV. **Proposal**

Increase fee from \$75 a year by \$25 a year for 5 years until it reaches \$200
Propose moratorium on future fees for the next 5 years

Rationale:

Puts a 10 year plan in place
Prevents larger fee increases down the road
Reduces the need to address again in the near term
Clear, incremental road map
2027 fee is 175, but our 5 year trailing average is only going to be 125 by then,
which will STILL mean our rates are below average.

V. **Abandoned Moorings:**

Too difficult to find and fine those who abandon them
Easier to claim the abandoned moorings, and “re-sell” them to a) mooring vendors
or b) next resident on waiting list who needs one

VI. **Time Frame to Start Announcement?**

VII. **Approval Steps Needed from RTM (example below from 2018 fee)**

HCM proposes, then BoS approves, and finally in order to take effect, it must be approved
by RTM

In accordance with the provisions of General Statutes § 22a-113s, the Greenwich Harbor Management Commission, pursuant to the Greenwich Harbor Management Plan, shall have the authority to propose a fee schedule for a permit for a mooring or anchorage or any other activity within the scope of the Greenwich Harbor Management Plan. Any such proposed fee schedule must be approved by the Greenwich Board of Selectmen and the Representative Town Meeting.

EXPLANATORY COMMENTS:

At its meeting on October 23, 2017, the RTM approved the Greenwich Harbor Management Plan pursuant to Chapter 7A of the Town Code and Connecticut General Statutes §§ 22a-113k, et seq. The Harbor Management Commission has now proposed a mooring permit fee in the amount of Seventy-Five (\$75.00) Dollars. This is the same amount that had been authorized by the Board of Selectmen prior to the adoption of the Greenwich

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF GREENWICH

EXPLANATORY COMMENTS
March 2018 meeting
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Do We Need Public Hearing

VIII. **Conclusion/Questions**

Jason D. Halio

917.331.2493