



FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
APR 21 2014 AT 11:00 AM/PM
Desley A. Blais
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF EAST LYME
EAST LYME HARBOR MANAGEMENT/SHELLFISH COMMISSION

Chairman
Steven Dinsmore

Treasurer
Donald F. Landers Jr.

Secretary
Joseph L. Hitchery

Not official until approved by the Commission at its next regular meeting

April 15, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes; East Lyme Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Steven Dinsmore; Joseph Hitchery; Barbara Johnston; Rick Kanter; Donald Landers; William Mountzoures
Absent Commissioner: Greg Murin

Ex Officios Present: Marc Berger, Deputy Harbor Master; Kevin Seery, Selectman

Others Present: Jaxson Vibber and Michael Theiler (Approved Mooring Installers)

1. **Call to Order.** Chairman Dinsmore called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

2. **Approval of Minutes of March 18, 2014**

MOTION: Ms. Johnston moved to approve the March 18, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Landers. Mr. Mountzoures abstained. Motion carried. (5-0-1)

3. **Public Delegation** – Mr. Vibber reported he had conversations with Mr. Hitchery, former Harbor Master, and had reviewed the Harbor Management Plan regarding the types of approved moorings. He presented the Commission with information regarding alternatives to mushroom moorings and stated he has four previously permitted pyramid anchors in Niantic Bay. Two were hauled and inspected last year and two are due for inspection this year. He presented information to the Commission which he felt showed that pyramid anchors exceed the minimum standards of East Lyme. He spoke to Richard Morris, Harbor Master, and his response was to remove them when they come up for inspection. Mr. Vibber asked that these moorings be grandfathered.

Mr. Hitchery confirmed the conversations took place last year and the specifications (provided to him by the Dor Mor pyramid manufacturer) presented to this Commission tonight were the specifications he previously gave to Mr. Vibber. It is true that last year this Commission approved the use of pyramid moorings in the Niantic River, but not in the Niantic Bay. Mr. Berger agreed with this because it had to do with the different conditions of the bottom. Mr. Landers felt pyramid anchors should not be used in the Niantic Bay because of the potential of high seas lifting them off the bottom. Ms. Johnston asked where are they located? She was informed in front of the Yacht Club. Mr. Landers added the minimum standards table was created before these anchors were used. Mr. Theiler felt it was more important to look at the large bottom chain used since quite a bit of heavy chain adds to the stability of a mooring. Mr. Vibber stated mushroom shanks can bend while pyramids bury themselves. He is willing to have discussions with other harbor masters to determine how they feel about this matter. Mr. Hitchery stated the inspection form asks for the weight

of the anchor and suggested in the future we should also ask for the design or type of anchor. Ms. Johnston asked that this matter be placed on the June Agenda of this Commission.

Mr. Landers agreed to contact the Harbor Master and ask him to not do anything for sixty days in order for the Commission to get more information. Mr. Thieler also stated there are individuals who use railroad wheels for mooring anchors and this Commission needs to decide what is appropriate. Mr. Vibber added he has approximately thirty customers in other towns that use them, and he never had a problem with any of them. He noted that this Commission allows 3/8" and 5/16" chains in the harbor. He showed photos of how a 3/8" chain deteriorated after three years. Mr. Hitchery stated he had increased the minimum requirements for the Bay area last year, but agreed it could be improved upon.

Mr. Thieler stated the mooring tackle for the Harbor Master boat is on his property and he would like to know where to place it.

4. Reports

A. Shellfish. Mr. Kanter reported the river is open and there has been clamming.

He and Mr. Dinsmore and representatives from Waterford, Groton and Stonington attended a meeting with DEEP regarding high level State employees taking samples to Milford. Mr. Landers asked if anyone has considered Avery Point taking over these tasks. Mr. Dinsmore recommended coordinating it with Ledge Light.

B. Harbor Master. Mr. Dinsmore reported the Harbor Master has had ten requests for new moorings. He will send second notices to approximately fifty late responders. Mr. Goeschel will apply for a DEEP Program Grant.

C. Treasurer. Mr. Landers reported we received a bill for 3.5 hours of clerical support. He received a \$25 check, presumably for a mooring, and an invoice from WELSCO for our 50% share of the rain gauge.

MOTION: Mr. Landers moved to authorize payment of \$1,625 for this Commission's 50% share of the rain gauge. Seconded by Mr. Kanter. Ms. Johnston abstained. Motion carried. (5-0-1)

MOTION: Mr. Mountzoures moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Kanter. Ms. Johnston abstained. Motion carried. (5-0-1)

D. Ex Officio. Mr. Seery reported the Board of Finance has approved this Commission's budget. They have made cuts to the Board of Education and Town Government budgets.

The Board of Selectmen will discuss permitting the use of golf carts on the roads at Black Point, Giants Neck, Pine Grove, and Saunders Point at its next meeting. Many communities have had success with them. A driver needs to have a Connecticut driver's license, a horn, a red flag and a registration certificate from the Town.

The Boardwalk contract has been awarded. Construction has not begun because of AMTRAK. Mr. Formica and Congressman Courtney are having discussions with them.

There will be some disruption at Hole-in-the-Wall beach when construction begins. The Cini beach area will have full-time attendants. Mr. Hitchery asked if there will be a parking fee for those individuals who only wish to walk the boardwalk. Mr. Seery replied there will be no charge for that.

Mr. Landers asked if any consideration has been given on reconstruction of the bluff? Mr. Seery replied there was nothing on that. He agreed to get information for this Commission's May Meeting.

E. Rain Gauge Subcommittee. Ms. Johnston asked if Mr. Morris was contacted regarding adding the rain gauge to the Town's system. Mr. Landers suggested looking into this for next year. Mr. Dinsmore was unable to reach Ledge Light regarding who receives information. Mr. Landers suggested tabling this matter until next month. Mr. Landers agreed to contact Mr. Morris to request that he put together a quote on a complete rain gauge.

5. Old Business

A. Harbor Management Plan. Messrs. Hitchery and Dinsmore met with Mr. Steadman and received a final draft of the proposed revisions to the goals and objectives section. Mr. Hitchery agreed to e-mail it to Ms. Ghersi for forwarding to Commission members for comments. Mr. Hitchery plans to meet with Mr. Steadman on April 27 to review a draft of the next revised section.

6. New Business

A. Correspondence. A COP was received from Docko for bulkhead repair for the Town of East Lyme. The repairs have already been completed.

B. Niantic River Dinghy Dock Project. Ms. Johnston asked for an update. Mr. Landers informed her that Mr. Morris is working with the Town Planner and Mark Kramer on applying for a BIG grant to provide for transient boating opportunities in the Niantic River. Ms. Johnston asked how do you dredge in an area with many clams? Mr. Landers replied it is in the conceptual phase. We are trying to improve boating opportunities in the river. Ms. Johnston asked that a plan be presented to this Commission. Mr. Landers stated the Bar Study already refers to that area. Mr. Dinsmore will ask Mr. Morris to give a report on this at our next regularly scheduled meeting.

C. Raised Bill No. 5289, An Act Establishing the Connecticut Port Authority. E-mail was received asking for comments. Mr. Hitchery commented it should be engaged with commercial ports only, and not recreational ports. Mr. Theiler stated the language refers only to commercial traffic in New London and New Haven. Mr. Hitchery added it is also connected with Homeland Security issues. Mr. Landers stated it is trying to drive economic development to the major ports.

7. Final Comments There were none.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Mountzoures moved to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Landers.
Motion carried. (6-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary