

**COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD**

**Ordinance No. 2413**

**INTRODUCED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD TO AMEND CHAPTER 11 OF THE TOWN CODE TITLED “HARBOR MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE”, TO REVISE SPECIFICATIONS FOR MOORINGS AND ESTABLISH AN ESCROW ACCOUNT FOR MOORING MAINTENANCE**

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted, and public hearing scheduled on \_\_\_\_\_ at 6:00 p.m. at the Oxford Town Meeting Room, Market Street, Oxford, Maryland 21654.

By Order \_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance Number 2413 of the Town of Oxford was duly read, advertised, and enacted in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Charter of the Town of Oxford on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vickie Sharp, Clerk/Treasurer  
Town of Oxford

**COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD**  
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WHEREAS, Maryland Code Ann. Article Local Government Article § 5-208 authorizes the Commissioners of Oxford to create, appoint, and establish a board of port wardens to exercise jurisdiction within the limits of the municipal corporation, to regulate the placement, erection and construction of structures, wharves, piers, moorings, buoys, piles or pilings, or other barriers or obstructions within or on the waters of the Town of Oxford; and

WHEREAS, on October 24, 1979, by Ordinance No. 165, pursuant to the authority granted by the Legislature of the State of Maryland, the Commissioners of Oxford established the Board of Port Wardens of the Town of Oxford to regulate the placement of structures, moorings, buoys, anchors, floating wharves and related waterfront structures; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 173, on May 11, 1982, the Commissioners of Oxford adopted a Harbor Management Ordinance, including certain regulations governing the placement of structures within the waters of the municipality, as well as permitting requirements for the same, which has subsequently been codified in the Town Code adopted on April 23, 2013, as amended from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the Oxford Board of Port Wardens have recommended that Section 11.9 of the Oxford Harbor Management Ordinance be updated to revise the minimum specifications required for the placement of moorings and to establish an escrow account for each mooring to provide for maintenance of the moorings; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners have determined that it is desirable and in the public interest to amend Chapter 11 of the Oxford Town Code, titled “Harbor Management Ordinance”, Section 11.9 to reflect the recommendations of the Oxford Board of Port Wardens.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commissioners of Oxford hereby ordain as follows:

**Section 1.** The Oxford Town Code, Chapter 11.9 is hereby amended as follows:

**Section 11.9 Regulations Concerning Anchoring, Mooring and Secure Berthing of Vessels**

...

**C. Specifications for Moorings.** Moorings shall meet the following requirements:

1. All mooring buoys shall be clearly visible and colored white and shall have a horizontal blue band around the circumference of the buoy, centered midway between the top of the buoy and the water line.
2. All mooring buoys shall have a circle of reflective tape around the circumference and above the waterline.
3. All mooring buoys shall display the permit number in black numerals not less than 3 inches in height, and shall also ~~display any permit sticker issued by the Town~~ **be labeled "PRIVATE" in black letters not less than 3" in height.**
4. Although the proper and safe design of the mooring shall be the responsibility of the permit holder, at a minimum, ~~the following~~ **tackle specifications shall apply: conform to the requirements of the current American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) standards. A copy of the current standards are available at the Town Office.**

LENGTH AT WATERLINE	WEIGHT OF MUSHROOM ANCHOR	DIAMETER OF TOP CHAIN	DIAMETER OF BOTTOM CHAIN	BUOY DIAMETER	MARINE MANUFACTURE PENNANT DIAMETER
FEET	POUNDS	INCHES	INCHES	INCHES	INCHES
0 TO 19	100	3/8	1/2	18	1/2
20 TO 24	200	3/8	1/2	18	5/8
25 TO 29	250	3/8	1/2	18	5/8
30 TO 34	300	1/2	5/8	18	3/4
35 TO 39	350	1/2	5/8	18	3/4
40 TO 44	400	5/8	3/4	24	1
45 TO 49	500	5/8	3/4	24	1
50 TO 54	550	5/8	3/4	24	1

- \*\*Notes:
- a. Boats larger than 54' will be considered on a case by case basis.
  - b. Shackles, swivels, etc., should be the next size larger than the chain size.
  - c. All swivels to be located not more than half way down the rode.
  - d. All moorings should be adequately protected against galvanic action.

- ~~e. All shackles should be safety wired.~~
- ~~f. All pennant lines should have chaffing gear.~~
- ~~g. All mushroom anchors shall be properly set.~~
- ~~h. Bottom chain 2 ½ times maximum depth~~  
~~Top chain equals maximum depth (Measured from MHW)~~  
~~Pennant 2 ½ times height of bow above water~~
- ~~i. HELIX mooring system acceptable when installed per the \_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~manufacturer's recommendations \_\_\_\_\_~~

**D. Mooring maintenance.**

1. Mooring tackle from the pennant (and including the pennant) to the bottom chain (including swivels) and the connector to the bottom chain shall be serviced and inspected at least every two years, and written evidence of a current inspection shall be submitted with the application for renewal *to the Town Office*. ~~The complete mooring tackle shall be raised and inspected at least once every four years.~~ All inspections shall be undertaken by an inspector approved by the Town. The Board shall have the authority to require additional inspections in its discretion where it determines that an additional inspection(s) are necessary and in the interest of public safety. All inspections shall be at the permit owner's expense.

2. *Each mooring owner shall maintain an escrow account managed by the Town in the amount of \$350.00 for the purpose of ensuring that mooring maintenance is satisfactorily completed, or used by the Town in the case of non-compliance to remove the mooring.*

3. If an unsafe condition persists or the mooring is abandoned, the Board will order and direct the removal of the mooring. If the owner fails to remove the mooring within thirty (30) business days of the notification to remove, the mooring shall be removed at the permit holder's expense *using a previously escrowed deposit*. If, in the opinion of the Board, a mooring poses an immediate danger, it will be moved or removed as quickly as possible at the permit holder's expense without prior notice to the holder.

3. The Board shall have the authority to require a permit holder to relocate a mooring if the Board determines that there is good cause for requiring relocation.

...

**Section 2.** This ordinance and the rules, regulations, provisions, requirements, orders and matters established and adopted hereby shall take effect and be in full force and effect twenty (20) days from and after the date of its final passage and adoption.

ENACTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD:

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Norman Bell, President

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Thomas Costigan, Commissioner

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Katrina Greer, Commissioner

*Additions reflected in italicized and bold font*

Deletions reflected in ~~strikethrough~~ text

PENDING