

**CITY OF NORWALK  
NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
MONTHLY MEETING  
JANUARY 27, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:** Jose Cebrian, Chair; Tony Mobilia, Dennis Santella, Dr. John Pinto, Bill Gardella, Jan Schaefer, Tony Aitoro, Joe Perella

**STAFF:** Michael Griffin, Harbor Master; Geoff Steadman, Consultant

**OTHERS:** Paul Sabbiano

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE**

Mr. Cebrian called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. A quorum was present. He requested Harbor Master Griffin to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Cebrian introduced the new Harbor Commissioner, Joe Perella, and welcomed him to the Commission.

Mr. Cebrian said that he had met with the Finance Department about the budget. There will be election next month. A brief discussion about the budget request and revenues.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Cebrian said that he had met with the Finance Department about the budget. A brief discussion about the budget request and revenues followed. The discussion then moved to the details of the shellfish mapping project.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Consultant** – No report.

**Harbor Master Report** –

Harbor Master Griffin said that his reports had been emailed out earlier. (See attached.) He reviewed the highlights of that report.

Mr. Cebrian asked about the status of the buoys. Harbor Master Griffin reported that Ms. Balint was going to pass along the information she had learned at the State of the Harbor meeting. He thanked Mr. Sabbiano for his work on this issue.

**REPORTS**

**Waterfront Advisory Report**–

Harbor Master Griffin presented his report that had been sent out earlier. (See attached.) The discussion moved to the details of the Clean Vessel Act and the discharge of contaminated water from the I-95 bridge into the Norwalk River.

## **Bridges Committee Report –**

### **Walk Bridge Status I-95 Bridge Status**

Mr. Mobilia said that Bridge Committee did not meet this month. The letters were sent out with cover letters from the Mayor as previously discussed. Some acknowledgements of receipt have been received.

There was a meeting on December 23rd for the Straffolino Bridge. The State is re-armoring the bridge and replacing the junction boxes for the submarine cables. This project is scheduled to start in 2017 and should take 6 months to complete.

Mr. Mobilia said that he was asked to attend several meetings over the holidays with the Mayor and other leaders on coordinating the work on all three bridge projects. The Mayor is putting together an oversight coordinator, but there are no further details at this time. These projects will have a large impact on both the water traffic and regular traffic in the City.

Mr. Mobilia said that there will be also be repairs to the Yankee Doodle Bridge during this time. During the dredging project, it was determined that the most contaminated dredge material was from beneath the I-95 bridge. This was because all the drains from the bridge area empty into the River. There were two public meeting on I-95, one was about the resurfacing of I-95 from the eastern edge of the Yankee Doodle bridge at Exit 16, to the western edge of the Saugatuck bridge at Exit 17. During that meeting, a statement was made that the only thing that was going to be done to the I-95 bridge was a replacement of the expansion joints. The drainage into the river will continue.

Mr. Steadman said that the DOT had a meeting about this issue because it is a state wide issue. He went on to give the details of the various meetings to address the issue of contamination from I-95. Discussion followed.

Mr. Steadman said that the State is required to have Environment Impact Statement and is supposed to provide public comment. There was a meeting back in March, but no one from the State had any information on the project. He added that the project would be done, but the question is how the project will be done. The Commission needs to be in a position to review the State's plan.

Mr. Steadman said that the DEEP had asked the Commission to do some

research on the measures that other states take in dealing with storm waters from the bridge decking. Discussion followed.

Mr. Cebrian asked Mr. Steadman to get an estimate on what the research might cost. He also asked Ms. Schaefer to design an infographic about this issue. Mr. Steadman said that the Norwalk River Watershed Group has a webpage that had information on these projects.

Harbor Master Griffin said that he had concerns about the extension of the mud flats on the eastern shore of the river. That area was not dredged because of the concerns about the submerged cables. The work on the bridges will have an impact on the flow of water and the fendering system.

### **Application Review Committee-**

**1.) 25 Channel, Norwalk, CT 06854. Pre-application submitted by Jeff Westermeyer, Coastline Consulting and Development on behalf of Ms. Jacqueline E. Urdike. This pre-application involves: Removal of existing structures, install a 4' x 20' fixed pier, 4' x 20' ramp, and 8' x 12.5' floating dock with 6" x 6" stops, and a 4'-8" x 5' hinged open-grate kayak launch, and retention of an existing concrete bulkhead.**

Dr. Pinto displayed copies of the proposed dock system with a hinged ramp and a floating dock that will sit on stops. The Commissioners then reviewed the details.

### **\*\* DR. PINTO MOVED THE ITEM WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:**

- 1.) THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION HAS PROVIDED A FAVORABLE COMMENT.**
- 2.) THE APPLICANT WILL BE REMOVING SOME EXCESS CONCRETE ON THE SITE.**
- 3.) THE BULKHEAD EXISTED BEFORE THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN**
- 4.) THE DOCK IS 15 FEET FROM THE BOUNDARY LINES, BUT IT IS PLACED TO AVOID IMPACT ON THE WETLANDS .**
- 5.) THERE ARE NO VIOLATIONS .**
- 6.) THE COMMISSION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO COMMENT .**

**\*\* MR. SANTELLA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH SEVEN IN FAVOR (CEBRIAN, PINTO, MOBILIA, AITORO, SCHAEFER, SANTELLA, AND GARDELLA) AND ONE ABSTENTION (PERELLA ).**

2. ) **287 East Avenue, Norwalk, Ct 06855. CAM Application. Submitted by LandTech, 518 Riverside Ave, Westport Ct. on behalf of Ms. Joanne Smith of Shorefront Park. The property currently has a fully developed 2-story single family dwelling with attached garage. The proposal is to construct a 2-story house with an attached one car garage that utilizes the existing foundation of the former 2-story house. A masonry seawall separates the property from the Mill Pond. Complete construction plans and architectural drawings will be available during Application Review.**

Dr. Pinto reviewed the details with the Commissioners.

**\*\* DR. PINTO MOVED THE ITEM WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:**

- 1.) THE APPLICATION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN AS LONG AS THE PLANS MEETS THE FEMA GUIDELINES**
- 2.) NO WORK IS PROPOSED ON THE SEAWALL .**

**\*\* MR. SANTELLA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH SEVEN IN FAVOR (CEBRIAN, PINTO, MOBILIA, AITORO, SCHAEFER, SANTELLA, AND GARDELLA) AND ONE ABSTENTION (PERELLA).**

**Finance – No report.**

**Mooring and Harbor Safety-**

Mr. Santella presented his report. (See attached.)

**\*\* MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO EXTEND THE RENEWAL PERIOD TO FEB. 29, 2016 AND SEND OUT EMAILS TO LET THE BOATERS KNOW THAT THE SITE IS NOW OPEN FOR RENEWAL.**

**\*\* MR. GARDELLA SECONDED .**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH SEVEN IN FAVOR (CEBRIAN, PINTO, MOBILIA, AITORO, SCHAEFER, SANTELLA, AND GARDELLA) AND ONE ABSTENTION (PERELLA).**

**Plans and Recommendations – No report.**

**Water Quality –**

Mr. Cebrian said that Mr. D'Andrea was the chair of the committee but the Mayor had not appointed any other members of the body at this time. Mr. Cebrian said that chair was assigned by the Harbor Commission and the remaining members

are assigned by the Mayor.

**Newsletter / Web site –**

Ms. Schaefer reported that the July issue was released in December.

**Shellfish Commission-** No report.

**Nomination Committee-**

Dr. Pinto said that the committee had created a slate of candidates. The position of Chairman for the next year would be Mr. Mobilia. Mr. Romano has agreed to be Vice Chair for the next year and then become Chair. Mr. Aitoro will be the candidate for secretary. The voting will take place at the next meeting.

Harbor Master Griffin said that he would like to applaud Dr. Pinto for moving Mr. Mobilia into the Chair during this very important time.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 5, **under I-95 Yankee Doodle Repair**: please change the heading from: “I-95 Yankee Doodle Repair/replacement” to “I-95 Yankee Doodle Repair”

Page 5, **under I-95 Yankee Doodle Repair**, paragraph 1, line 2: please change the following from: “chemical run-off capped and disposed in the area. There was a discussion of the involvement by the DEEP.” to “chemical run-off from the bridge in the area. There is a discussion of the involvement by the DEEP at the present time.”

Page 5, under Public Comment, paragraph 1, line 1: Please change “Mr. Paul Servino asked” to Mr. Paul Sabbiano asked”.

**\*\* MR. CEBRIAN MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2015 STATE OF THE HARBOR MEETING AS CORRECTED.  
\*\* MR. SANTELLA SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR IN FAVOR (CEBRIAN, MOBILIA, PINTO, AND GARDELLA) AND FOUR ABSTENTIONS (SANTELLA, AITORO, PERELLA AND SCHAFFER).**

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no old business to consider at this time.

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There was no old business to consider at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services.