

**CITY OF NORWALK
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Tony Mobilia, Chair; John Romano, Vice Chair; Tony Aitoro, Secretary; Bill Gardella, Joe Perella, Dr. John Pinto, Dennis Santella, Jan Schaefer

STAFF: Harbor Master Mike Griffin; Geoff Steadman, Consultant

OTHERS: Paul Saviano, Lindsay King, Jaymee King

CALL TO ORDER.

Mr. Mobilia called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Harbor Master Griffin asked for a moment of silence for a friend of his who was very involved in the various activities on the Harbor.

ROLL CALL.

A quorum was present.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Mr. Mobilia reported that the By-laws had been approved by the Common Council. Copies of the By-laws with the changes indicated and a completed copy were distributed to the Commissioners.

Mr. Mobilia said that the updated Mooring Rules and Regulations would be up for approval in March. Discussion followed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. Mobilia explained that the Chairman is elected by the Commissioners. The Chairman has a year term and the bylaws state that the Chairman can not serve more than three consecutive terms. However, the former Chairman can serve again after another election cycle has passed. At the present time, Mr. Cebrian has served for three consecutive years and therefore can not be a candidate for the chairmanship.

Dr. Pinto announced that the following slate of candidates was presented last month:

Tony Mobilia – Chairman

John Romano – Vice Chair
Tony Aitoro – Secretary

He then asked if there were any other nominations. No one came forward. He asked a second time if there were any other nominations. No one came forward. He asked a third and final time if there were any other nominations. When no one else came forward, Dr. Pinto announced that the slate of candidates would remain as presented.

**** DR. PINTO MOVED TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING SLATE OF CANDIDATES:**

**TONY MOBILIA – CHAIRMAN
JOHN ROMANO – VICE CHAIR
TONY AITORO – SECRETARY**

**** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Mobilia expressed his gratitude to Mr. Cebrian, who was not able to attend the meeting, for his service. He said that he would be sitting down with Mr. Romano to discuss Committee assignments in the coming weeks.

With all the major projects that will affect the Harbor underway, it is very important for the Commission to work together as a team. It will also be important for the Commission to sort out the rumors from the facts as the various issues move forward.

STAFF REPORTS

Consultant – No report.

Harbor Master Report – Harbor Master Griffin presented his report. (See attached)

**** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE HARBOR MASTER’S REPORT AS PRESENTED.
** MR. ROMANO SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Waterfront Advisory – No report.

Bridges –

I – 95 Bridge - Mr. Mobilia said that there was no new information on the bridge at this time.

Walk Railroad Bridge – Mr. Mobilia said that they continued discussions with the DOT over the last few weeks. He added that a major effort has been made to let the DOT know it is their obligation to minimize the impact that this repair will have on all the businesses and the residents. He said he believes it is a matter of communication and the DOT has indicated that they will improve their communications with the City. More information will be available when the design is 60% completed.

Dr. Pinto pointed out that the DOT was holding firm on the fact that they will be only refurbishing the 95 bridge and will not be re-directing the water that comes off the highway and drains into the Norwalk River. A discussion followed.

Application Review

Calf Pasture Island, Nowinski Application. Application, submitted by Bajek Associated, involves addition of a series of five 5' x 25' timber access floats (hinged together), 8 timber anchor pilings and a 4' x 9' aluminum ramp to an existing authorized floating dock. The access floats will have stops underneath to keep the float system 18" above the substrate at low tide.

Dr. Pinto reviewed the details of the application with the Commissioners. He noted that there had been several violations identified on the island in the past. Dr. Pinto said that the Application Review committee had no objects to the application moving forward, but added that based on the previous history of violations, there should be some indication on the application that the previous issues have been resolved. The Commission reserves the right to review the application at a later date and after it goes out to public notice.

Discussion followed about the details of the application and the status of previous violations. The Commissioners agreed that they would like more information on the extent of the violations and the current status of those previous violations.

Harbor Master Griffin said that the Shellfish Commission did not have a February meeting. He said that he presents all the actions and applications and presents them to the Shellfish Commission at their next meeting, which will be on March 3rd. Dr. Pinto said that he would send the application to Mr. Johnson, the chair of the Shellfish Commission.

**** DR. PINTO MOVED TO REQUEST THE APPLICANT TO PROVIDE THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION WITH INFORMATION AS TO THE EXTENT OF THE PREVIOUS VIOLATIONS AND WHAT ACTIONS WERE TAKEN TO RESOLVE THE DAMAGES BEFORE THE APPLICANT CAN SUBMIT HIS PRE-APPLICATION TO THE COMMISSION.**

**** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7 Island Drive, Storm Drainage Pipe repair; City of Norwalk Application.

Review of COP (#201508723-KB) issued by DEEP-OLISP to City of Norwalk for permission to repair the last section of a storm water drainage pipe that extended through a seawall located between the properties of 3 and 7 Island Drive.

Dr. Pinto then gave an overview of the drainage pipe repair. He said that the City had received their COP to repair the pipe and fill in the sink hole. All the dirt removed would be removed and stored upland for disposal. The COP has already been issued.

Finance – No report.

Mooring and Harbor Safety – A discussion followed about the online mooring process. There have been a number of boaters who have filled out the registration, and submitted it. Since they don't receive any confirmation that the process was successful, they resubmit the application. The system should be generating reminders and notifying the applicants automatically.

Mr. Mobilia said that one vessel could have three different applications, one with the permit, one with the description of the vessel and one with the inspections. Because the system takes a while to process the information the applicant hits the Enter key multiple times. This will generate three different applications and the following year, the application will be flagged as incomplete. Mr. Romano said that multiple applications should mean that the applicant should have then paid three times. Additional discussion followed about the intricacies of the system.

Ms. Schaefer thanked Mr. Santella for all the hours that he had put in on this project.

Dr. Pinto asked about the process to complete the application and printing out the applications. Mr. Santella reviewed the process with the Commissioners. He said that he had spoken to the IT specialist who said that he couldn't figure out why Norwalk was having so many problems while other municipalities were not having these types of issues.

It was noted that the renewals were coming in slowly this year. Mr. Santella was then asked how many moorings there were. He replied that there were approximately 200 moorings, plus the managed fields, which would be approximately 250 spaces. Mr. Mobilia pointed out that the renewal process started a month late this year. Discussion followed.

Mr. Santella said that an additional reminder should be sent out to mooring holders. It was pointed out that the renewal form stated that the notification should be published in

the local newspaper at least 30 days before the end of the renewal period. Harbor Master Griffin said that he could recall this having been done in the past, but it may not have been consistently done. He said that this would have been required because it would give the City the legal standing to collect the late fees. It was noted that the requirement was not included in the by-laws.

Mr. Mobilia then gave an additional example of problems that mooring holders had been experiencing. He said that the last notification that was sent to the mooring holder included a "Renewal" button that would have taken the applicant directly into the application. He said that he had gotten emails from various people, who only saw the email title and tried to go into the system themselves rather than opening the email and using the "Renew" button embedded in it.

Mr. Steadman then reviewed the Connecticut State General Statutes requirements with the Commissioners. He indicated that the statute had been issued 30 years ago, and while it indicated that the Harbor Master was to collect the fees from the mooring holders, it did not specify the method that should be used. So, using the computerized system was approved by the DEEP at the time when the Commission was introducing the system. Mr. Steadman said that the same should be true for the publication of issues in the newspaper because now the method for making public announcements is done via the City website.

Harbor Master Griffin then suggested that the Commission review the data from the past years starting in 2011 to see if there were any major patterns. Discussion followed.

Regarding Harbor Safety, Mr. Santella announced that G & C Marine was the contractor that would be restoring the speed buoys. The owner is interested in donating something towards the purchase of the speed buoys, but it has not been determined what that will be. Discussion followed about the details of the decals on the buoys.

Harbor Master Griffin said that Sgt. Lepak had contacted him about putting the two buoys in the Harbor now. The DEEP had denied permission to install the buoys because of the violations in the managed fields. Harbor Master Griffin said that he had communicated this to Sgt. Lepak.

Plans and Recommendations – No report.

Water Quality – No report.

Newsletter/Web site – No report.

Shellfish Commission – No report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 27, 2016 -

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, under **OTHERS** and forward: please change “Paul Sabbiano” to “Paul Saviano”

Page 5, under **Newsletter/Web** site: please change “the July issue was” to “the issue was”

Page 5, under **Approval of Minutes**: please change the following motion from:

- ** 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).**

To:

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- ** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2016 MEETING AS CORRECTED.**
- ** DR. PINTO SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to consider at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to consider at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. ROMANO MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services