

**CITY OF NORWALK
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
MARCH 23, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Tony Mobilia, Chairman; Bill Gardella, Dr. John Pinto, John Romano, Dennis Santella, Jan Schaefer, Joe Perella

ABSENT: Tony Aitoro

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

OTHERS: Sergeant Peter Lepak, Police Department Marine Division; Diane Lauricella, Deborah Goldstein

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Mr. Mobilia. There was a quorum present. Mr. Mobilia asked for those in attendance to rise and recite The Pledge of Allegiance. He then asked everybody to remain standing for a moment of silence for those attacked in Brussels, Belgium.

ROLL CALL

There was no roll call.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Mobilia announced the mooring rules and regulations were approved by the Common Council. He thanked Mr. Santella and his Committee for their work. Mr. Mobilia asked if everybody had received their Committee assignments.

STAFF REPORTS

Consultant

Mr. Steadman had no report.

Harbor Master

Mr. Griffin highlighted Item #9 on his report. He said on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 7 p.m. he will host a Cold Water Survival Class/Demonstration at the Norwalk Fire Department on Connecticut Avenue.

Waterfront Advisory Committee

Mr. Griffin highlighted Item C: the cost of personal, automatic inflating life jackets to be worn by the Boating Center staff members at all times when they are on duty at the center is under review.

He said he would like the Commission to consider funding or donating money for the life jackets. Mr. Griffin said the cost would be from \$600-\$700. He said the staff would be required to wear the life jackets at all times.

**** MR. ROMANO MOVED TO BUDGET UP TO \$750 TO PURCHASE LIFE VESTS FOR THE STAFF AT THE DONOVAN CENTER.**

**** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED.**

A discussion followed.

Mr. Mobilia asked if Mr. Griffin had asked Boat US to get the money in the form of a grant. Mr. Griffin said it a cumbersome process to go through Boat US and does not think that will work out.

Mr. Romano though it might be an OSHA requirement. Mr. Griffin said he had no knowledge about that.

Mr. Griffin said he would need to purchase seven life jackets and said it would come to \$92 and change. He said they are self-inflating and can also be manually inflated. Mr. Gardella said he will check with his family and see if anybody would like to contribute.

Mr. Romano withdraw the motion.

Mr. Mobilia said to have it ready for the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bridges

Mr. Mobilia said there is nothing to report on the Walk Bridge at this time. He said the meeting schedule for March 29 was postponed because the DOT is not ready.

He said the Redevelopment Agency has agreed to hire a consultant to put together a Business Mitigation Plan. Mr. Mobilia said hopefully that will help the City.

Mr. Mobilia said on the Yankee Doodle Bridge, the Mayor has received a letter back from the DOT and they are only fixing the drains up to the present plans. Mr. Mobilia said that does not preclude us from commenting on it. He said when their permits come thru the Commission will be looking at it.

Dr. Pinto said the DEP has to hold the DOT accountable. He said the DEP knows about it and the Commission has made it known to them.

A lengthy discussion followed about discharges from the Yankee Doodle Bridge and how the Commission could get the DOT to do something about it. Dr. Pinto said the same problem is present at the Stroffolino Bridge and the Mianus River Bridge. He said the contamination in the river is coming from the trucks and cars on the highway. Mr. Mobilia said the Commission has to document it and prepare a letter with its findings.

Ms. Deborah Goldstein recommended the Commission try WESTCOG. She said they would be the best pressure point and they are the gatekeeper to the money.

APPLICATION REVIEW

9 Seabreeze Place, Application by Kenneth Krueger

Dr. Pinto said the Commission already commented. He said when it goes out to public review the Committee can make its final comment. He said this is an area sensitive to shellfish. He said the Shellfish Commission has already commented on this. Dr. Pinto said the best management practices need to be followed concerning the placement of the dock and for any vessel they use the stationing of the vessel must be in conjunction with the Harbor Master.

Maintenance dredging application at Norwalk Cove Marina, 48 Calf Pasture Beach Road

The project involves the removal of 23,000 cubic yards of previously dredged material. He said there was no major comment and the only comment is boilerplate that docks be put back and require the replacement of equipment by the Harbor Master's request.

Mr. Romano left the meeting.

**** MR. ROMANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION OF NORWALK COVE MARINA.**

**** MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED 5-0 IN FAVOR (MR. MOBILIA, MS. SCHAEFER, DR. PINTO, MR. SANTELLA AND MR. PERELLA), MR. ROMANO WAS NOT PRESENT AND MR. GARDELLA RECUSED HIMSELF.**

Mr. Romano re-entered the meeting.

9 Gregory Court, CAM Application

The applicant plans to elevate the home 1 foot about the flood elevation. Dr. Pinto said the architect met with the Committee and told us what was going to be done. He said the house is going to be cut back in the front area and will be built back in the existing footprint. Dr. Pinto said there will be two Cultec rechargers which will pick up runoff from the roof and dispose of it in the back of the yard.

Dr. Pinto said the recommendation is consistent with the Harbor Management Plan and with the understanding that it meets all FEMA guidelines and that the applicant employs best management practices to avoid adverse impact during construction on the harbor and employs all appropriate measures to reduce storm water runoff from the property into the harbor post construction.

**** MS. SCHAEFER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION OF 9 GREGORY COURT.**

**** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Certificate of Permission, City of Norwalk

The City DPW proposes to remove four sections of a 24 feet concrete pipe that has deteriorated and extends into Norwalk Harbor. The Commission discussed whether or not the pipe is still operational.

Dr. Pinto said he will reach out to Ms. Lisa Burns for clarification. He asked how does the Commission proceed.

Mr. Steadman generated some language so the applicant can move forward.

**** MR. ROMANO MOVED THE APPLICANT NEEDS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE DRAIN AND FOLLOWING REMOVAL OF THE PIECES THE DRAIN WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION NORMALLY.**

**** MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

46 Shorefront Park, CAM application

Dr. Pinto said this is a case of a house being removed and put back in the same footprint. The new house will be elevated and will have the same type of water runoff with two Cultec rechargers.

Dr. Pinto said the same language will be used as 9 Gregory Court.

**** MR. ROMANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION OF 46 SHOREFRONT PARK.**

**** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Transit Oriented Development Plan

Mr. Steadman filled the Commission in on the Application Review Committee meeting with Ms. Susan Sweitzer of the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency regarding the Norwalk Development Plan.

Mr. Steadman said the important issues that came out of the meeting were:

Although the transit oriented redevelopment area included the waterfront along Water Street the proposed zoning changes they are considering adopting do not address the Water Street area at all.

The South Norwalk Redevelopment included the harbor waterfront area along Water Street, but the zoning proposal does not propose any changes to the existing waterfront zoning area on Water Street.

He asked Ms. Sweitzer to reference the policy of the Harbor Management Plan that support existing water dependent uses and encouraging future water dependent uses.

A recommendation that the Harbor Management plan is referenced as a city document for the TOD area.

Redevelopment in this area should include measures to reduce stormwater runoff because this is the area of South Norwalk that drains though the harbor into Total Marine.

Any changes to this plan that may be considered including extending zoning proposals should come back to the Commission for review and comments before they are enacted on.

Dr. Pinto said Ms. Sweitzer agreed to our comments.

Department of Transportation, Emergency Repair

Dr. Pinto said the DOT will replace the pilings and the rails of the Walk Bridge and the walkway based on an emergency repair request from the US Coast Guard. The basic comment is much of the work will be done by barge and crane and the Harbor Master should be involved in the placement of the barge.

The major concern is a peregrine falcon in the area that the DOT must worked around.

Repair of the West Fender will take place April to June and the East Fender from June till September.

He said the approval only deals with this replacement and the further project to replace the bridge will be subject to Commission review.

**** MR. ROMANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE DOT EMERGENCY REPAIR OF THE WALK BRIDGE.**

**** DR. PINTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Finance

There was no report.

Mooring and Harbor Safety

Mr. Santella reported Mooring Renewals are coming in. He said the Mooring Committee is reviewing applications that came in by mail. Mr. Santella said mooring stickers are being made and will be sent out to each mooring holder along with the procedure to place the sticker on the mooring and the vessel.

Mr. Mobilia said the City is considering having a computer made available for the public to complete mooring applications. He said hopefully it can be done next year.

Mr. Santella said G&C Marine has ordered four new speed buoys. He said Mr. Norm Edwards donated 4 150-pound mooring anchors for the speed buoys. Mr. Santella recommended the Commission send a letter to thank Mr. Edwards for his donation.

Plans and Recommendations

There was no report.

Water Quality

Mr. Steadman said he went to the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative meeting. He said the Watershed Initiative had written a letter to the DOT supporting the Commission's position about drainage on the I-95 bridge but had not received a response. He said we talked about all three bridge projects. Mr. Steadman said he could not speak for the Commission but said it would be reviewing all three projects.

Newsletter/Website

There was no report.

Shellfish Commission

There was no report.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

There was one correction.

On page 3, change object to objection.

**** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED OF FEBRUARY 24, 2016.**

**** MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Mobilia asked if Sergeant Lepak had anything to report. He said he will be talking to Mr. Mike Payton of the DEEP for navigational aids in the harbor. Sergeant Lepak said he would like to add some additional signage.

Mr. Santella asked if more signage could be placed at the South Norwalk Boat Club. Sergeant Lepak said that would be a good idea.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Mobilia said he had an issue to discuss and turned it over to Mr. Steadman who discussed an online survey (done by survey monkey) that he was involved in and was linked to the City's website in West Haven. He said the survey breaks everything down into charts and graphs. Mr. Steadman said over 500 responses were received and said it would be an effective tool. Mr. Mobilia recommended it be discussed by the Plans and Recommendations Committee.

Mr. Santella suggested the need to improve the website. Mr. Mobilia delegated that issue to Newsletter/Website.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

AJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

G. Venuto

Telesco Secretarial Services