

**Five Mile River Commission
May 19, 2016 Meeting Minutes
The Boardroom, Rowayton Community Center
33 Highland Ave., Rowayton, CT 06853**

Commission members in attendance:

Matthew Marion, Chairman
Wim Jessup, Commissioner
Dirk Leasure, Commissioner
John deRegt, Commissioner
Ray Meurer, Harbor Superintendent
David Snyder, Assistant Harbor Superintendent

Guests:

David Chute, Rowayton Resident
Steve Bartush, Norwalk Resident

Matthew Marion took the chair at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Marion reported that the Commissioners present at the March 31, 2016 meeting had reviewed and unanimously approved the March meeting minutes electronically. By vote, those Commissioners re-confirmed their approval of the minutes, which have been filed electronically with Darien and Norwalk within the statutory period. Public notice of the re-scheduled May 5, 2016 meeting was timely provided and the agenda timely filed with Darien and Norwalk.

Chairman Marion welcomed the guests and, in an opening statement, commented on the success of the March 31, 2016 meeting with several Norwalk and Darien marine police and with representatives of the boatyards and marinas operating on the Five Mile River. While discussions at the March meeting focused primarily on issues of immediate concern, he underscored the importance of maintaining a long term view of the management of the river, particularly on topics such as water quality and maintenance dredging. He noted that the use of an e-newsletter could help keep these issues in front of boat owners. Chairman Marion requested the assistance of the Commissioners, Harbor Superintendent, and Assistant Harbor Superintendent in preparing brief updates about three important topics: water quality, storm preparedness, and maintenance dredging for an early summer edition of the Commission's newsletter.

The Commission discussed the transient moorings off the community dock and the Rowayton Yacht Club at 151 Rowayton Ave. It was suggested a fee of \$10 be charged to cover the annual ground tackle maintenance cost of each transient mooring and that the orange transient mooring buoys be marked: "\$10" and "203.852.8095." The Harbor Superintendent agreed to implement these changes.

The Commission next turned its attention to the revised dock application for 51 Rowayton Ave. Chairman Marion noted the applicant had ameliorated a basic problem in the original 2015 design-- the 20' proximity of the proposed dock to an adjacent dock--by pivoting the fixed ramp to the north in order to create an additional 7' of separation between the docks. While not a complete solution, it represents an improvement in the Commission's view, is comparable to other docks along the western shore of the river, and can be further improved with some restriction on the length (20' maximum) of the boat docked at the site. In addition, the Commission's objection to the applicant's original proposed use of anchors and chains to secure the float has been addressed through the proposed installation of two pilings to hold the float in place. Last, to prevent the float from resting aground at low tide and harming the substrate, the Commission will recommend to the DEEP that corner stops be installed on the float. Subject to these recommendations/conditions, the Commissioners approved the revised dock application.

David Chute, Norwalk resident and building contractor, presented a brief description of his revised plans for the construction of a 6,000 foot private residence at 215 Rowayton Ave. The presentation to the Commission was in response to the City of Norwalk's request that the Commission review the revised plans as part of the Coastal Area Management review program. The plans were electronically circulated to the Commissioners for their review and comments.

Chairman Marion noted that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection had approved the proposed dock at 41 Rowayton Ave.

During a discussion about the several open mooring locations in the river, David Snyder suggested using social media such as Facebook and/or a blog to alert local boaters to the availability of these moorings and to create greater awareness generally about activities impacting the river. The Commissioners strongly approved this suggestion.

The Harbor Superintendent reported 2016 YTD income of \$38,600 and expenses totaling \$4,527, based on the reports provided by Tammy Papp, the Commission's administrative assistant.

In his meeting report, the Harbor Superintendent noted the mooring permit application should include a statement about the new ground tackle inspection program. The Commissioners agreed. He also raised the question of using pick up buoys with a yellow flag to highlight the kayak/paddle buoy trail, particularly just north of the red lobster boat. The Commission supported the proposal and asked Mr. Meurer to request that Downunder pay for the buoy. Mr. Meurer further reported that a 16 foot aluminum skiff had been found abandoned on the beach at 139 Five Mile River Road. Officer Derek Mulcahy, Darien Marine Police, was notified and later confirmed the boat was last registered three years ago. The prior registered owner has not responded to communications from the local marine police and the boat has not been reported missing.

At 8:49 p.m., Chairman Marion proposed, and the Commissioners agreed to, an executive session regarding a pending matter involving a former mooring holder.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

The remaining regularly scheduled meeting dates for 2016 are: June 16, July 28, October 20 and December 8. The meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Rowayton Community Center, 33 Highland Avenue, Rowayton, Conn.

Respectively submitted, Ray Meurer, Harbor Superintendent