

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 22, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:** Tony Mobilia, Chair; Dennis Santella, Dr. John Pinto, Bill Gardella, Tony Aitoro, Joe Perella, Jose Cebrian (7:47 p.m.)

**ABSENT:** Jan Schaefer, John Romano

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

**OTHERS:** Pete Johnson, Shellfish Commission; Sgt. Peter Lapak, Marine Police Unit

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE**

Mr. Mobilia called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. following a moment of silence in memory of John Frank, a former Harbor Commissioner who passed away recently.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Mobilia called the roll. A quorum was present. He said that Mr. Romano was not able to attend due to injury and Ms. Schaefer was not able to attend.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Mobilia said that most of his comments would be made within the various reports on the agenda.

**STAFF REPORT**

**Consultant** - No report.

**Waterfront Advisory** - Harbor Master Griffin said that his report had gone out late. (See attached) He gave copies of the form to the Chair for the files. Harbor Master Griffin thanked the Gardella family for their donation of automatically inflating life jackets.

**Harbor Master** - Harbor Master Griffin presented his reports. (See attached). There is a new commander at Sprite Island and the new commander contacted Harbor Master Griffin to make sure that the marina was in compliance. He reviewed the details of the fender repair project underway. Mr. Johnson said that he had heard two different

potential plans for the electrical cables that are currently using the catenary structures on the bridge. Discussion followed.

*Mr. Cebrian joined the meeting at 7:47 p.m.*

**\*\* MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE HARBOR MASTER'S REPORTS.**

**\*\* MR. CEBRIAN SECONDED.**

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Mooring and Harbor Safety** - 97 applications are in and many of them are missing information. Mr. Santella said that he thinks there are more boats moored than the Commission has applications for. Harbor Master Griffin said that he would survey the boats and suggested that an email blast be sent out to the permitted boaters. Once that is done, the mooring and the boat can be stickered. Harbor Master Griffin said that he felt that they could close the 2016 season before moving forward into the 2017 season. Harbor Master Griffin said that there was no respect for the Harbor Master taking their mooring away from them. Mr. Santella said that the boaters could contact them via email but they don't. Harbor Master Griffin said that people are beginning to realize that if they don't listen, they would have a visit from the Marine Police.

Sgt. Lapak came forward and gave a summary of a boater who had set his own mooring and had his inflatable dinghy impounded and later moored a larger sailboat on the dinghy dock. The vessel has been towed to Bridgeport. Discussion followed about the details.

Harbor Master Griffin distributed copies of the 2012 Mooring Permit and said that in the past the Committee had approved the language.

Mr. Mobilia said that the Fire Department had submitted a request to put a trailer with emergency equipment at Veterans Park.

**Bridges** - Mr. Mobilia said that there was not much to report on either the I-95 bridge or the Walk Bridge. Mr. Mobilia said that there have been problems with the tracks and the catenary lines expanding in the heat and contracting in the cold. Mr. Mobilia said that the barges were in place. Harbor Master Griffin said that there was a serious safety issue with the divers being in the water by the Walk Bridge and the rowing teams ignoring the dive flags. He said that Sgt. Lapak and Officer Silva had handled this and there were two incidents within two days where divers were almost hit by boaters ignoring the dive flags. One of the coaches was issued a citation. Discussion followed about whether the rowers need boating licenses. Harbor Master Griffin said that he had gotten the rowers' attentions when he stated that he would close the section of the river from the Thruway

bridge to the Railroad Bridge. State regulations state that the boaters should not go within 100 feet of a dive flag.

Mr. Mobilia said that the Straffolino bridge repair was underway. Mr. Mobilia said that one of the reasons that the fender work was being done on the Walk Bridge was because of the rowers. When Harbor Master Griffin said that they had mentioned an alternative work plan, they were told by the State that the contracts had already been drawn up.

**Application Review –**

**CAM Application – Andrew Tesoro, Architect – 15 Seabreeze Place – Replacement of single family residence with a newly constructed single-family residence.**

Dr. Pinto reviewed the CAM application for 15 Seabreeze Place, which involves replacing a residence with a larger residence. New decks and patio area will be at a setback of 15 feet from an existing seawall. There is an existing wooden dock extending 59 feet into Norwalk Harbor. An existing boat lift which extends 12 feet beyond the end of the dock is scheduled for removal.

**\*\* DR. PINTO MOVED WITH REGARD TO THE CAM PROPOSAL AS SUBMITTED, IT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN. THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS ARE MADE:**

**WITH REGARD TO THE RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE:**

- 1. THE APPLICANT SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO EMPLOY APPROPRIATE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES DURING DEMOLITION AND CONSTRUCTION TO ENSURE THAT THE PROPOSED WORK, INCLUDING REMOVAL OF DEBRIS, DOES NOT CAUSE ANY SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, INCLUDING WATER QUALITY, IN NORWALK HARBOR.**
  
- 2. THE APPLICANT'S PROJECT SHOULD INCORPORATE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO REDUCE OR OTHERWISE MANAGE STORM WATER RUNOFF FROM THE PROPERTY INTO NORWALK HARBOR FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT. THE COMMISSION HAS NOTED THE PROPOSED PLANS INDICATE THAT ALL DRAINAGE FROM THE PROPERTY WILL LEAD IN THE DIRECTION OF NORWALK HARBOR.**
  
- 3. THE COMMISSION NOTES THAT A PORTION OF THE NEW RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION IS LOCATED WITHIN THE FLOOD VELOCITY ZONE. ACCORDINGLY, THE COMMISSION HAS ASSUMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ITS REVIEW THAT THE**

**CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW RESIDENCE IS BUILT WITH FEMA AND CITY OF NORWALK BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSING STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN THE VELOCITY ZONE.**

**4. THE APPLICANT NEEDS TO SUBMIT A CERTIFICATE OF PERMIT (COP) TO DEEP TO REQUEST REMOVAL OF THE BOAT ELEVATOR AND TO MODIFY THE SCOPE OF AUTHORIZATION AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS INDICATED IN THEIR ORIGINAL PERMIT. THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE APPLICANT HIRE A COASTAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT TO ASSIST THEM WITH THE PROCESS. THE APPLICANT WOULD NEED TO JUSTIFY REMOVAL OF THE ELEVATOR AND INDICATE WHAT IS PROPOSED IN ITS PLACE. THE APPLICANT'S ORIGINAL PERMIT TO RICHARD SCALISE SPECIFIES UNDER SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS ITEM 2, THAT *"THE PERMITTEE SHALL INSTALL THE BOAT ELEVATOR OR OTHER SUCH DEVICE TO PREVENT ANY VESSEL FROM RESTING ON THE BOTTOM AT LOW WATER. SUCH STRUCTURE SHALL BE MAINTAINED IN OPTIMAL OPERATING CONDITIONS FOR THE LIFE OF THE STRUCTURE."***

Mr. Mobilia pointed out that the Commissioners did not hear the comments from the neighbors until a public hearing was held about a property on Nyked Terrace, which was late in the process. He wondered if the Commission could hear public comment before then. Dr. Pinto said that the DEEP had modified their regulations and will require the owners to notify neighbors within 500 feet of the property.

**\*\* MR. AITORO SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Finance** - Mr. Aitoro said that there were a number of invoices that would be submitted to the Comptrollers and reviewed the details.

Mr. Mobilia asked Mr. Johnson about what the status was in terms of having a Memorandum of Understanding about the use of the Harbor Master's boat, which is also used by the Shellfish Commission. Mr. Johnson said that whenever anything is done it will be done in conjunction with the Harbor Commission.

**Plans and Recommendation** - Mr. Steadman said that he would like to do something to memorize John Frank. Mr. Mobilia suggested this be discussed under New Business.

Mr. Mobilia said that there had been a discussion about having a survey done and using it for Water Quality.

**Water Quality** - Mr. Steadman said that there had been discussions about the pollution and sediment that comes off the I-95 bridge and ends up in the Norwalk River. He said that perhaps asking the DEEP about analyzing the surface of the bridge. A study was done in Connecticut about the pollution that was generated by vehicles in a parking lot over the course of a year. Mr. Steadman suggested that the Commission work on estimating the amount of pollution that comes off the bridge since there are 150,000 vehicles that pass over that bridge daily. Mr. Steadman distributed copies of the proposal done by Mr. Thomas Hart along with a letter containing recommendations and a letter to Senator Chris Murphy.

Mr. Mobilia asked whether the Harbor Commission should finance this study or should the Commission look for grant funding from an outside organization. It was suggested that the Commission talk to Senator Murphy to see if there was any Federal funding available.

**Newsletter/Website** – Mr. Perella said that he had been in contact with Ms. Schaefer about the layout and content. The contact list has been compiled into one Excel sheet. There is no new information on the website. A Facebook page has now been started. Mr. Perella encouraged everyone to visit the page and like it.

Mr. Mobilia said that he had sent the Mooring Rules and Regulations to IT to be posted on the Harbor Commission page.

**Shellfish Commission** - Mr. Johnson announced that there would be a hearing for 1 and 3 Gregory Court on July 11th in Hartford.

One application has been submitted recently but the Shellfish Commission tabled it in order to clarify some details.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**May 25, 2016 –**

The following correction was noted:

Page 3, Header, **Marine Police Unit NFD Marine Unit:** please change the header to read as follows: “**NPD / NFD MARINE UNIT**”

**\*\* DR. PINTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 25, 2016 AS CORRECTED.**

**\*\* MR. AITORO SECONDED.**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Mobilia said that he would like to discuss the possibility of a memorial for John Frank. He said that Mr. Steadman had suggested a panel or plaque. Mr. Cebrian pointed out that the current Mayor was the former Chief of Police and the Police Department might be doing something. Mr. Johnson suggested possibly replacing the flagpole at the beach that flies the Shellfish flag. Mr. Steadman said that having an educational panel in front of the flagpole. He said that he would discuss this with Shellfish Commission.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to consider at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services