

**Five Mile River Commission  
September 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes  
The Boardroom, Rowayton Community Center  
33 Highland Ave., Rowayton, CT 06853**

**Commission members in attendance:**

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

Absent: Dirk Leasure

**Guest:**

Steve Bartush, Norwalk Resident  
Robert Griffith, Norwalk Resident

Matthew Marion took the chair at 7:32 p.m.

Chairman Marion confirmed that prior to the meeting the Commissioners had reviewed and unanimously approved the July 28, 2016 meeting minutes electronically, and that the minutes had been filed electronically with Darien and Norwalk within the statutory period. By vote, the attending Commissioners unanimously re-confirmed their approval of the July 28 meeting minutes. Public notice of the scheduled July 28, 2016 meeting was timely provided and the agenda timely filed with Darien and Norwalk.

On the first agenda item, Chairman Marion noted the success of the 2016 bi-annual Ground Tackle Inspection Program, with all moored boats in compliance except for one. The Harbor Superintendent confirmed he would follow up with the one non-compliant mooring holder, who is subject to a one week deadline. Chairman Marion noted in 2017 only new mooring applicants and those replacing their ground tackle would need to have their moorings inspected and certified, and would then fall into the current biannual cycle. He also requested the Commissioners consider how best to formalize the assessment of qualified marine service providers (experience, equipment, and insurance) tasked with certifying the condition of ground tackle during future inspection cycles.

Next, the Commission discussed the mooring strings, including two unused, single mooring balls and ground tackle in front of Boat Shop that are encroaching on the federal channel. The Commission agreed unanimously to notify the holders of those two moorings that the permits for those locations are being terminated. The Harbor Superintendents agreed to meet on the river this fall to review possible reconfigurations/consolidations of the mooring strings.

The Harbor Superintendent reported YTD income of \$51,550.00 and YTD expenses of \$10,937.27. He also confirmed a substantial majority of dock customers has paid the river use fee, and advised that he would contact those who haven't to secure payment before the end of the season. The Harbor Master also confirmed all individuals on the 2016 mooring wait list were offered moorings but declined. The Commission directed the Harbor Superintendent to revise the wait list by eliminating those listed boats, with a view to encourage only those interested in acquiring a mooring to apply in 2017. The Commission also discussed the importance of marketing the availability of moorings to the surrounding community, and agreed to revisit this issue at their next meeting. The Harbor Superintendent also reported that he had sent out a bid request to install the kayak mooring balls to marine service providers and was awaiting their responses by the September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. Finally, he noted that Down Under had refused to pay any of the costs associated with creating the kayak safety channel, despite its prior agreement.

In the public comment section of the meeting, commercial fisherman Robert Griffith proposed mooring an agriculture oyster boat in the river next year. Discussion covered size/displacement, construction, placement, and mooring strategy of the 58' x 22', self-propelled pontoon boat. Meeting attendee Steve Bartush recommended that Robert contact the Norwalk Harbor Shell Fish Commission in order to explore the option of mooring in Norwalk Harbor. Chairman Marion asked if the vessel would be insured, and was advised "probably not" by Mr. Griffith. Chairman Marion indicated the Commission would have additional questions for Mr. Griffith prior to its October meeting, and tabled his proposal until then.

Steve Bartush raised for discussion the environmental impact of boats aground at low tide – citing the Darien side of the harbor. He asked the Commission to consider adopting guidelines to help address this impact.

The Commission also discussed the absence of a working pump-out station on the Five Mile River. John DeRegt volunteered to contact Soundkeeper before next summer to see whether regular pump out services could be provided to the boats moored and docked on the river.

The public meeting ended at 9:05 pm and an executive session ensued for 20 minutes, after which the meeting concluded.

The remaining regularly scheduled meeting dates for 2016 are October 20th and December 8<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Rowayton Community Center, 33 Highland Avenue, Rowayton, Conn.

Respectively submitted, David Snyder, Assistant Harbor Superintendent