

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY JULY 27, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:** Tony Mobilia, Chair; Dennis Santella; Dr. John Pinto;  
Bill Gardella; John Romano; Jan Schaefer

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

**ABSENT:** Tony Aitoro; Joe Perella; Jose Cebrian

**OTHERS:** Mike Silva, Norwalk Police Department; Pete Johnson, Shellfish  
Commission

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE**

Mr. Mobilia called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Mobilia called the roll. A quorum was present.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Mobilia stated that the Connecticut State Port Authority meeting is here in Norwalk on September 22, 2016 in the community room at 2:00 p. m. He stated that the commission should prepare something to present and we should all make an effort to attend the meeting.

The commission send a letter to Senator Murphy and has not heard back. The letter requests a survey or study which estimates the amount of pollution that comes from automobiles. The proposal is for \$6,000 to see if an entity would be able to help fund it. Chairman Mobilia attended last month's Shellfish Commission meeting and they wanted to know more about the issue. They are interested in taking part in the study or survey.

Pete Johnson entered at 7:37 PM.

A decision will have to be made on what type of memorial will be put together for John Frank. Hopefully it will get going by the end of the summer.

## STAFF REPORTS

**Consultant Report** - Mr. Geoff Stedman stated that he did not have anything to report but he would be making comments within the reports on the agenda.

**Harbormaster Report & Waterfront Advisory** – Chairman Mobilia stated that he and Harbormaster Mike Griffin are concerned about the rowing incident. He stated that rowers are never a privileged vessel.

Officer Mike Silva noted his concern about the situation. He wants to make a presentation to the rowing clubs about the law. He is made inquiries as to the members of the Safety Committee and the answers he got were vague. Rowers are not clear on what the rules are that they have to follow. He wants to speak to the rowing clubs and keep the message simple – rowers never have the right of way.

He spoke with Norm Bloom and when his ships are loaded with product, it is impossible to stop for a rower. There was also an incident where a rower went into a moored sailboat and never contacted the police to report the accident.

Harbormaster Griffin stated that coaches have certificates and believe they have enough local and specific knowledge about where the rowers can operate. Harbormaster Griffin stated that coaches have certificates and believe they have enough knowledge about where the rowers can row. The rowers need to have minimal education requirements, and understand the conditions they are dealing with. The specifics on where they can row are clearly marked on the map. You hope they knew what they were doing when they marked the map.

When he was on the dock he witnessed problems with the rowers around the fire boat. He explained to the rowers that they cannot be in the way of the fire boat. In case of emergency, the boat must leave quickly and cannot take time to go around the rowers. He told the firemen to report rowers to the police when they see them even if they have to call five times a day.

He hoped the rowers would want to set up a meeting soon. There are eight days until the current season ends, and then a rowing school session starts on September 1, 2016, and all clubs will be on the river. He let DEEP know this and is hoping to set up the meeting. Officer Silva stated that staff from the DEEP have observed the rowers and agree that the situation is wrong.

Harbormaster Griffin stated that on various islands, trash pick-up has been done by volunteers. The Fish & Wildlife Service offered the Parks and Recreation Department use of their landing craft because volunteers need help bringing the trash back to shore. They were unable to do so because of an emergency. Volunteers may be able to do clean ups in the future. There is no routine cleaning on the islands. It is based on the carry in carry out policy.

Chairman Mobilia asked why the pump out station was broken. Harbormaster Griffin replied that staff members saw a boat using the pump out station and noted that waste was going into the water. The pump housing was damaged. This occurred on Sunday night. The pump was put back into service after four days.

Chairman Mobilia asked for a motion to accept the Harbor Master's report.

- \*\* **MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE HARBORMASTERS REPORT.**
- \*\* **MR. PINTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **SHELLFISH COMMISSION REPORT**

Mr. Pete Johnson stated that he put in papers for 13 Gregory Boulevard. He supplied pictures of the location. The owner wants to put in an 85 foot pier, a thirty foot ramp, and a 40 x 5 floating dock. A forty foot dock is all that is necessary. They did not put in silk fencing.

A pre-hearing conference is scheduled for August 25, 2016 at the Norwalk Town Hall. On September 21, 2016 a public hearing is scheduled.

There is a seed area for oysters at this location. The oysters may not set for 10 years and then they may set for 10 years in a row. The dock must have a minimum of 16 inches of water below it and at low tide it does not meet the requirement. At low tide there is only a foot and a half of water all the way to the other side. Mr. Johnson said that the installation of a dock would increase the property value.

Harbormaster Griffin asked Mr. Johnson to read a July 25, 2016 letter from regarding a question on putting multiple moorings down at Crow Island.

Mr. Johnson stated that if one more mooring is put in, the place shuts down. The area contains a natural shellfish bed.

Harbormaster Griffin stated that this was the third letter of this type asking about installation of moorings that he has received since July 10, 2016.

Chairman Mobilia stated that a memorandum of agreement is needed on the shared boat. He stated that he and Mr. Johnson should get together to discuss the matter. The Shellfish Commission owns the boat. Mr. Johnson stated it is registered to Town of Norwalk. Chairman Mobilia has to put in request to legal department, and then it becomes a 50-50 ownership. A notebook log will be kept to track when boat is used.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- \*\* MR. SANTELLA MADE A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND HEAR THE APPLICATION REVIEW REPORT.**
- \*\* MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Application Review Committee** - Dr. John Pinto recommended moving forward with the pre-application for 1 Jennings Place while reserving the right to review. There is additional information on the application that will need to be presented.

Officer Silva stated that 200 rowers would be moved to the 1 Jennings Place location. That would be a relocation of rowers, not a relocation.

Officer Silva stated that he received complaints from the St. Ann's Club stating that the docks are rocking when boats pass by going 6 miles per hour. He stated that the dock needs to be fixed.

Harbormaster Griffin brought up the letter that inquired about moorings. He asked about the maximum number of moorings that any individual could have, and if a shellfish bed could prevent moorings from being put in to a location. Mr. Stedman stated that a shellfish bed was sufficient reason.

- \*\* MR. PINTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE PRE-APPLICATION FOR 1 JENNINGS PLACE, APPLICANT WATER SORTS CENTER INC. 35 SEAVIEW AVENUE: RELOCATION OF DOCKING FACILITIES FOR MARITIME ROWING CLUB.**
- \*\* MR. ROMANO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The second application was for maintenance dredging and we have very little information from the applicant. There were not any drawings submitted. The application is being sponsored by Village Creek.

Mr. Romano left the meeting at 8:28 PM

**Mooring and Safety Committee** - Mr. Santella reported that he wants to put back in place the permit approval form to be sent out to applicants. It has been put online. He wants to make sure that approval of projects is not automatic. Applications need to be completed before they are approved.

Mr. Santella stated that violations stickers will be put on moorings. Harbormaster Griffin stated that when a violation is identified, stickers placed on the mooring, and owners have fourteen days to respond in accordance with City Code and State Statutes. There are fines for not complying with a Harbormaster's order.

**Bridges Committee** - Tony stated that there is nothing new to report on the Walk Bridge. He and Mr. Steadman attended a Department of Transportation partnering meeting. At the meeting, relocation of power lines over the bridge was discussed. A vertical lift bridge is preferred they will float a piece in at the end and keep the existing bridge operational as long as possible.

**Finance Committee** – Chairman Mobilia asked about the \$56 bill from the Cove Marina. Harbor Master Griffin stated that it was for fuel. It was agreed that a notebook will be used to track expenses.

**Plans and Recommendation Committee** – No report was given.

**Water Quality Committee** - Mr. Steadman stated there was a breakout session on environmental matters. He stated that existing data will be relied upon. He thought it would be better to have monitoring stations set up.

Mr. Steadman stated that an Eagle Scout project was done and labels were put on drains on the I-95 Bridge. Anthony D'Andrea made a great presentation to the Shellfish Commission, and earned his Eagle Badge.

**Newsletter/Website Committee** – Ms. Schaefer stated that the newsletter will be sent out to people on the email list. She asked for opinions on whether it should be printed, and where it should be distributed. Discussion followed on placing it in the lobby of City Hall, sending out yacht clubs, commercial marinas, and boat clubs.

The commission's Facebook page currently has 243 likes and the top post was on the whale being spotted.

Harbormaster Griffin exited the room at 9:33 p. m.

**Nominating Committee Report** - The commission discussed the Harbormaster nomination process.

Officer Sylva left at 9:39 p. m.

Harbormaster Griffin returned at 10:03 p. m.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following corrections to the June, 22, 2016 minutes were noted:

Page 1, change former Harbor Commissioner to former Shellfish Commissioner.

Page 2, change to submitted a request to Recreation and Parks Committee to put a trailer with emergency equipment at Veterans Park.

Page 3, add Mr. Mobilia said that one of the reasons that the fender replacement work was being done on the Walk Bridge before the actual bridge replacement was because the Coast Guard ordered it for safety reasons.

Page 4, change memorize to memorialize.

- \*\* MR. GARDELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 22, 2016 MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS.**
- \*\* MR. SANTELLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Schaefer stated that it is difficult to get the pump-out boat to respond when it is needed. Other communities are more responsive. She will contact Sound Keeper about the issue.

## OLD BUSINESS

Paul Saviano came forward to ask about getting the number 10 sign replaced. Mr. Santella and Harbor Master Griffin stated that they would find out what needs to be done to replace the sign.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 p. m

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney  
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk  
Harbor Management Commission  
Regular Meeting  
July 27, 2016  
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