

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HARBOR MANAGEMENT  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 24, 2016**

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

**ABSENT:** Jose Cebrian, Tony Aitoro, Harbor Master Michael Griffin

**OTHERS:** Geoffrey Steadman, Consultant; Officer Michael Silva, Norwalk Marine Police, Steve Artege

**CALL TO ORDER.**

Mr. Mobilia called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Mobilia called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Mobilia said that there were two changes to the Committee assignments:

Nominating Committee – Dr. Pinto Chair; and add Ms. Schaefer, Mr. Perella  
Planning - Ms. Schaefer, Chair; Mr. Gardella and Mr. Romano

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Consultant** – Mr. Steadman said that his comments would be made during the agenda discussions.

**Harbor Master** – Mr. Mobilia said that the report has been emailed to the Commission members.

Mr. Romano asked about the status on the buoy decals. Mr. Santella said that the decals were part of his report.

**\*\* MR. ROMANO MOVE TO APPROVE THE HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT AS SUBMITTED.**

**\*\* MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED.**

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

**Shellfish Commission –**

Mr. Johnson said that there would be a meeting on August 25 to review the 1-3 Gregory Point proposal on the 40 ft pier, 30 ft ramp and a dock during the day, and a public hearing on September 21st about this proposal. Discussion on the details followed.

Mr. Mobilia said that he and Mr. Johnson had met with the Legal Department about the agreement between the Shellfish Commission and the Harbor Management. A brief discussion followed about the payment for the recent oyster bed mapping.

Mr. Johnson update the Commission on a recent event where someone had been encroaching on private oyster beds.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Mooring and Harbor Safety** – Mr. Santella talked about the mooring decals that had been placed on the approved areas. The areas that were involved were listed in the Harbor Master's report. The vessels that do not have decals have not been approved because the applications were missing information.

Mr. Johnson then briefly reported on the number of moorings in Copp's Bay. The Bureau of Aquaculture will only allow so many mooring in that area. The discussion moved to lunch moorings and the problems that they create.

Mr. Santella said that the South Norwalk Boat Club has agreed to put up a number of No Wake Signs. Officer Silva said that in Milford, they had a sign at the boat launch that stated that the "Wake Zones start at Buoy #" and it seems to work well. Mr. Santella suggested that Officer Silva contact Mr. Mocciae.

**Marine Police Unit/ NFD Marine Unit** -- Mr. Mobilia announced that Firefighter John Maggio had contacted the Harbor Commission to announce that the trailer is now located at Veteran's Park and it has frilled boom. Mr. Johnson said that Norm Bloom and a number of other have emergency booms available

**Bridges** - Mr. Mobilia said that he had attended a DOT informational meeting about the Walk Bridge. The DOT has announced that they do not have 30% of the design finalized yet.

There will be an environmental impact report released to the public at the end of September. This will be followed by a 45 day public comment period. Mr. Steadman said that there would be a Federal Environmental Impact Study and a State Impact Study combined. The DEEP has also said that they will be holding a public hearing. Discussion followed about whether this should be reviewed by Application Review.

The fender repair project is moving forward. The east side appears to be nearly

complete but the west side appears to still need work.

Mr. Steadman said that he had heard that the State has nearly completed the design for the I-95 bridge. He said that there were still concerns about the storm water discharge. The DOT does not agree that the run off from I-95 was creating a problem in the Harbor. Mr. Steadman said that perhaps the Committee could do a study about the various pollutants a vehicle would generate going over the bridge. Mr. Steadman outlined a possible method for gathering the data. He said that there were other studies from other highway departments that could be utilized. Mr. Johnson asked if there had been other states that had done anything about this. Dr. Pinto said that the State of New York was having the Tappan Zee storm water flow into a catchment area before it is discharged into the Hudson River. Discussion followed.

Mr. Steadman said that he had felt that if the Harbor Management Commission did a literature review and presented a list of best practices to the DOT to indicate that the Harbor Management Commission is serious about the issue. Mr. Steadman said that he would revise the study proposal.

The work on the Strofollino Bridge will be discussed during Application Review.

### **Application Review**

#### **30 1/2 Shorefront CAM Application: New Single Family Residence.**

Dr. Pinto said that there were some people present for the Shorefront CAM Application. He reviewed the details of the new construction of a single family dwelling. No work is planned regarding the existing dock or seawall.

**\*\* MR. ROMANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE 30 1/2 SHOREFRONT CAM APPLICATION AND RESERVES THE RIGHT TO COMMENT.**

**\*\* MR. SANTELLA SECONDED.**

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

#### **Maintenance Dredging, Village Creek**

Dr. Pinto reviewed the details of the proposed clamshell dredging. He said that the Harbor Master would have to be notified of the work area. The dredge area is close to the three underwater cables that go from Norwalk to Long Island.

**\*\* MR. ROMANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR MAINTENANCE DREDGING, VILLAGE CREEK.**

**\*\* MR. SANTELLA SECONDED.**

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

**20 Point Road, Norwalk, Connecticut. Tentative notice to approve.**

Dr. Pinto reviewed the details of the proposed work. He added that the work would include the relocation of 4 existing 4'x5' boulders landward. Dr. Pinto said that the DEEP had already given approval for the dock. He reviewed the comments and added that the harbor Master should be notified when the work vessels are on site.

**\*\* MR. ROMANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR 20 POINT ROAD, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT.**

**\*\* MR. SANTELLA SECONDED.**

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

**Stroffolino 136 Bridge over Norwalk River; Bridge No. 02295; State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation Project No. 102-357.**

Dr. Pinto then reviewed the details regarding the proposed.

Mr. Steadman said that the Chairman, and others had attended a meeting with the DOT about this. He said that currently the Bridge gears are currently exposed and occasionally, the oil for the gears escapes from the sump.

Mr. Steadman reviewed the details of the comments. He added that the Fire Department had requested a modification of the area by adding an I-beam that would facilitate rescue efforts of an injured party from the bascule pits. The Fire Department has performed two other rescues in this location.

**\*\* MR. ROMANO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR WORK ON THE STROFFOLINO 136 BRIDGE OVER NORWALK RIVER; BRIDGE NO. 02295; STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECT NO. 102-357 WITH THE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION .**

**\*\* MR. SANTELLA SECONDED.**

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

Dr. Pinto said that he had received a call from the auditor about the funds were used for the dredging. Dr. Pinto provided the auditor with all the paper backup and explained that the funds had to be dedicated for dredging. It will be used for dredging the launch ramps.

**Finance** - Mr. Mobilia said that he had received an email from Mr. Aitoro and he would be submitted some vouchers for payment.

Mr. Santella said that he had received the final payment from Sprite Island and would be submitting it to Mr. Iannaccone.

**Plans and Recommendations** – Ms. Schaefer said that the Committee had met to discuss the memorial for John Frank. He said that Mr. Mocciae and Mayor Rilling had already given verbal approval. It will be an interpretive panel. Mr. Steadman will be designing the memorial. There will be a painting of John that was done by his daughter included, along with information on shell fishing and some biographical information about Mr. Frank. The Cost will be \$650.00 and this will be split with the Shellfish Commission.

**\*\* MR. ROMANO MOVED TO APPROVE UP TO \$500 FOR AN INTERPRETIVE PANEL ABOUT SHELL FISHING THAT WILL ALSO MEMORIZE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LATE JOHN FRANK.**

**\*\* DR. PINTO SECONDED.**

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

Ms. Schaefer said that there had been discussions about having a public survey to determine how people use the waterfront. Based on the West Haven survey, Mr. Steadman and Mr. Mobilia drafted up a survey about water quality. The final survey will be online.

Ms. Schaefer said that on the September 22nd, the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission would be presenting to the Connecticut Port Authority at the upcoming public hearing. Mr. Steadman said that he had contacted the Port Authority and if the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission creates a PowerPoint presentation, the Port Authority will put it up on their website.

**Water Quality** – No report.

**Newsletter/Web** – Ms. Schaefer displayed a copy of recently completed newsletter that was sent to the Commissioners via email. The discussion followed about color copies vs. black and white copies and the number of copies needed. Mr. Perella said that he would get some prices on printing 500 copies and come back to the Commission with the prices. There is now a Facebook page for the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission.

**Nominating Committee** -

**Harbor Master nominating discussion** - Dr. Pinto said that there was an additional application. He said that there was no urgency to put the nomination up. Mr. Mobilia said that with two new members, this issue should be tabled until the new members can be brought up to speed.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**July 27, 2016**

Page 1, under **STAFF**: please add “Consultant” following Mr. Steadman’s name.

Page 3, under **Shellfish Commission Report**, paragraph 2, line 1: please change the following from “August 25, 2016 at the Norwalk Town Hall.” To “August 25, 2016 at the Norwalk City Hall.”

Page 3, under **Shellfish Commission Report**, paragraph 5, line 1: please change the following from : “the place shuts down.” to “the State will close the area.”

Page 4, paragraph 2, line 3: please change the following from “registered to Town of Norwalk” to “registered to City of Norwalk”

Page 4, under **Application Review Committee**, paragraph 3, line 1: please change the following from:

“Officer Silva stated that he had 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 need to be fixed.”

To: “Officer Silva stated that he had received complaints in that area 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 docks may need to be fixed.”

Page 4, under **Application Review Committee**, paragraph 4 – please remove the following text:

“Harbor Master 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 on a location. Mr. Stedman Steadman stated that a shellfish bed was a sufficient reason.”

Page 4, **MOTION** – please change the following from:

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

**\*\* MR. ROMANO SECONDED.**

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

**TO:**

**\*\* MR. PINTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE PRE-APPLICATION FOR 1 JENNINGS PLACE, APPLICANT WATER SPORTS CENTER, INC., 35 SEAVIEW AVENUE: RELOCATION OF DOCKING FACILITY FOR MARITIME ROWING CLUB.**

**\*\* MR. ROMANO SECONDED.**

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

Page 5, under **Mooring and Safety Committee**, paragraph 1, line 1: please change the following from: “Mr. Santella report that he wants to put back” to “Mr. Santella reports that Harbor Master Griffin wants to put back”

Page 5, under **Mooring and Safety Committee**, paragraph 1, line 2: please change the following from: “He wants to make sure” to “Harbor Master Griffin wants to make sure”

Page 5, under **Mooring and Safety Committee**, following paragraph 2, please add the following text:

“Harbor Master 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 on a location. Mr. Steadman stated that a shellfish bed was a sufficient reason.”

Page 6, under Nominating Committee Report, paragraph 1, line 2: please add the following text: “The item was tabled.”

**\*\* MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 27, 2016 AS CORRECTED.**

**\*\* DR. PINTO SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 27, 2016 AS CORRECTED PASSED WITH SIX (6) IN FAVOR (MOBILIA, ROMANO, SCHAEFER, GARDELLA, PINTO AND SANTELLA) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (PERELLA).**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Schaefer said that she had been approached about a vessel that was docked and the bow was sticking out. The complainant said that it was impeding navigation. She gave the details of the docking location and said that she was just reporting it for the record.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to consider at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* MR. ROMANO SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services