

**NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Tony Mobilia, Chair; Dennis Santella, John Pinto, Bill Gardella, Joe Perella, John Romano; Tony Aitoro

ABSENT: Jan Schaefer; Jose Cebrian

OTHERS: Geoffrey Steadman, Consultant; Sargent John Maggio, Norwalk Marine Police; Harbor Master Michael Griffin

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

Chairman Mobilia called the meeting to order at 7:30 p. m. and Harbor Master Griffin led the pledge of allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for the passing of Captain Paul Tomko of United Marine.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Mobilia read the roll, and a quorum was present.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Mobilia summarized the "Norwalk Harbor: The Jewel of Long Island Sound" presentation that was made by the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission to the Connecticut Port Authority. He stated the four priorities in 2016 are to reduce adverse impacts of the WALK Bridge Project on Norwalk Harbor, manage storm water from I-95 Bridge deck, improve Dunavan Boating Center at Veterans Park, and plan for future maintenance of the Federal Navigation Project. He stated that we are trying to get a meeting of the Bridge Committee to discuss EIE, and we will have to meet with the Law Department on how to respond within legal bounds.

STAFF REPORTS

Consultant

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

Harbor Master

HM Report

Waterfront Advisory

Mr. Griffin stated that the report has been emailed to the Commission members.

Shellfish Commission

Mr. Mobilia stated that shellfish mapping is still coming along. Dr. Pinto suggested that NOAH, might be able to be used to help the shellfish mapping.

Mr. Griffin stated that he went to the Shellfish Commission meeting, and took a poll of those present. They stated that the launch box moorings have not been worse than it's been in 10 years, and that there is not a proliferation of moorings put in without permission at the outer island area. He stated that several requests for moorings had been denied, and he doesn't see extra moorings out there. Mr. Tony D'Andrea came forward and offered to take a look around the next time he goes out on his boat to see if extra moorings of been put in.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mooring and Harbor Safety

Mr. Santella stated that the committee and H. M. Griffin continue to contact applicants, to inform them to submit their missing information and bring their applications into compliance. He stated Online Mooring will be hosting a User Conference for their clients consisting of a Webinar Format with Q & A on October 5, 2016 and a series of Live Regional Focus Group Sessions on October 13, 2016.

Mr. Santella stated that G & C Marine have ordered one new speed sign for navigation aid #10 and it's due in shortly and will be installed ASAP. Four South Norwalk Boat Club signs are ready and will be installed ASAP.

Harbormaster Griffin presented reports detailing which people have completed their applications and how far they are into their applications. He stated he is made phone calls notifying people that they need to complete their application and that Dennis's contacted them through email. Discussion followed on the best course of action to take to increase boaters' compliance with regulations.

Mr. Aitoro stated that all parking permit expire on December 31, 2016. A letter could be sent out informing owners that fees are due in January for the upcoming year upcoming year. Chairman asked Sergeant Maggio if the police have the ability to issue a citation. Sergeant said that it needs to match with a city ordinance I need to go through the Common Council.

Marine Police Unit

NFD Marine Unit

Sargent Maggio stated that we almost had a commercial diver run over rowers. Also, a rower collided with a moored sailboat, and did not report the incident. There's a lot of work to be done with the rowing clubs. Currently we have incident based staffing which has limited the number of boats we have one the water, and it is a challenge to maintain visibility with the public.

The boat show was very busy and people complained about the channel being blocked. Mr. Romano asked about mandating contractors to get police when the events like the boat show are staged. Sargent Maggio stated there is a statute for the roads that require police presence when construction is going on. Perhaps that statute could be tailored for the water.

Bridges

Chairman Mobilia stated that the fender repair project is almost complete Stroffolino Bridge is moving forward.

Application Review

Stroffolino 136 Bridge over Norwalk River; Bridge No. 02295; State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation: COP #201610580-MG. Review COP for DOT consideration of Harbor Commission comments and any compliance issues associated with Norwalk Harbor Management Plan.

Dr. Pinto stated that everything to be completed has been agreed upon except for the safety hoist requirement.

Interstate I95 Yankee Doodle Bridge over Norwalk River; State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation Project No. 102-295. The proposed project involves improvement of existing storm water outfall and installation of a splash pad in the tidal channel flowing into Norwalk Harbor on the western end of the project. Work will be under the Yankee Doodle Bridge in the vicinity of the outfall and not involve resurfacing of the Yankee Doodle Bridge.

Dr. Pinto stated that on the application for the Yankee Doodle Bridge, we will have to meet next month and have a more intense review. It is in our best interest take an in-depth look at the water runoff impact. The meeting will take place in the third or fourth week of October.

Finance

Mr. Aitoro stated that gas bill of \$56 was paid. The Telesco Secretarial Services bill was paid. Mr. Pirella asked how to take care of the bill for the newsletter. Mr. Aitoro told Mr. Pirella to submit the bill to him. Chairman Mobilia asked that a spreadsheet be made up detailing how much money we have left and what we have spent. Mr. Aitoro said he would put one together. He stated that he will put together budget for next year soon, as it needs to be done completed by December.

Plans and Recommendations

Chairman Mobilia stated that Ms. Schaefer was absent, but wanted to state that she helped out a great deal with the Norwalk Harbor presentation and did very good job.

Water Quality

Mr. Steadman said that the Harbor Management Commission can do a literature review and present finding on the causes of the sediment pollution to the Department of Transportation. Mr. Steadman said that he would revise the study proposal. The survey was initially proposed to cost \$6,000, but it has been revised downward to \$3,750. The DOT has not agreed that pollution from cars crossing the bridge was causing the pollution in the sentiments under the bridge, and this study can help us make our case.

The water up the river to be tested under the bridge can be tested and downriver could be tested. He stated that we contacted Senator Murphy's office and they suggested that we can put it in a condition on the bridge application, and not sign off on the bridge work until we're satisfied with the DOT's investigation of the pollutants.

**** MR. AITORO MOTIONED TO ALLOCATE UP TO \$3,750 WITH THE HOPE AND EXPECTATION THAT WESTPORT WILL JOIN WITH US TO PUT TOGETHER A STUDY TO CONDUCT A PROPOSAL DATED TODAY, SEPTEMBER, 28, 2016 TO IDENTIFY WATER QUALITY ISSUES, AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR STORM WATER MANAGEMENT FROM THE I-95 BRIDGE.**

**** MR. GARDELLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Newsletter / Web site

Mr. Pirella stated that the newsletter will be available in a week two a mass email will be sent out. He invited all present to email him with links and submissions that can be included in the next issue. Going forward we will establish a timeline for sending out the newsletters. We will have a November deadline for getting things ready for the next issue. It is been a good idea to distribute printed copies of the newsletter. The copies that we put in City Hall and other locations go quickly.

Nominating Committee

Dr. Pinto stated that we have had five individuals put in applications for the position of Harbor Master. We've had two recent submissions and we need to get their resumes.

We have a flagship operation and we want to hold the Port Authority to their word saying that they prioritize development of the smaller ports, and not just focus on the three big ones.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 27, 2016 MEETING.**

**** DR. PINTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH ONE OF ABSTENTION (MR. AITORO.)**

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forward.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Paul Saviano came forward to say thank you for the installation of the no wake sign marker on navigation aide #10, but that the marker on #10's power is broken in half so that it looks like the number one. Harbormaster Griffin stated he would report it to the local navigation officials, so that they could fix the power issue.

Mr. Tony D'Andrea came forward to bring up the possibilities of the different types of bridges that could be considered as replacements for the Walk Bridge. Chairman Mobilia stated that we have to think about the future of the harbor and that the bridge is not about a few sailboats needing to go up the river. It's about freight going up the river and preventing the boats from going up the river would restrict further development.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. SANTELLA MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

**** DR. PINTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services