

**NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Tony Mobilia, Chair; Jan Schaefer, Bill Gardella; Joe Perella; Tony Aitoro; Dennis Santella

STAFF: Geoff Steadman, Consultant; Harbor Master Mike Griffin

OTHERS: Officer Mike Silva NPD; Paul Saviano

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

Chairman Mobilia called the meeting to order at 6:20 p. m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Mobilia stated that he met last week with the DOT and Norwalk River Submarine Cable Crossing. He stated that the DOT will also be having a meeting with the Shellfish Commission to discuss the cable.

STAFF REPORTS

** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO TAKE AGENDA ITEMS OUT OF ORDER.
** MR. GARDELLA SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Harbormaster Report

Mr. Griffin presented his report as follows:

Item #1 I have attended various NHMC and DOT meetings during this report period. These meetings were attended on behalf of the NHMC, subject Norwalk Walk Bridge project and Yankee Doodle / I-95 Bridge project.

Item #2 It was reported to me by one of the local shellfish companies, concerned about possible damage to local shellfish resources, that there was a sailboat approximately 30 feet in length anchored in the vicinity of Marvin Beach. The vessel was anchored in low water sitting on the bottom during various

times of normal tide cycles. I visited the vessel and on two occasions placed 14 day notice stickers for anchoring in Norwalk Harbor while riding on a ships own equipment. After the fourteen day period I reported same to the Norwalk Marine police for possible follow up action.

Item #3 A harbor review shows three vessels remain on anchor in the east basin. One is owned by Mr. Peter Burger. I will contact Mr. Burger reminding him of his permit expiration date for vessel removal, 12-31-16.

Item #4 Recent forward progress, I have and will continue to contact each applicant from the list of incomplete applications, furnished to me by the NHMC Mooring Committee, by phone stating the following.

“This is a courtesy call to inform you that your application is incomplete and therefore as the State of Connecticut Harbor Master, I have not issued your 2016 mooring permit and will not affix a 2016 mooring decal on your vessel and ground tackle.” I cautioned them that they must go online and complete their application. I furnished them with their application reference number and warned that they may lose their mooring location and 2017 renewal rights if they are not properly permitted in 2016.

**** MR. AITORO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE HARBOR MASTER REPORT AS SUBMITTED.**
**** MR. GARDELLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Waterfront Advisory

Mr. Griffin presented the Waterfront Advisory report as follows:

1. Please see the minutes of the December Shellfish meeting emailed to your attention.
2. Final expenses for submittal to DEEP for payment under the Clean Vessel Act contract with the City for the 2016 boating season are being finalized.
3. Progress on the launch ramps and boating center parking lot projects continues.

Consultant's Report

No report was given.

SHELLFISH COMMISSION

Chairman Mobilia stated that the Shellfish Commission would be getting a report from the DOT on the Norwalk River Submarine Cable Crossing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mooring and Harbor Safety

Mr. Santella gave his report as follows:

Moorings:

The Online Mooring System, continues to show improvement and compliance by most of the mooring applicants, however there are a number of applicants who do not comply, by submitting their vessel registration, insurance and tackle reports as required.

Renewals and applications for the 2017 season, will not allow payments or be accepted without including all the required documents.

There are 105 mooring permits in the system for the 2016 season. The mooring areas are located in Norwalk Harbor, East Basin, South Anchorage, Peach Island, Belle Island, Ram Bay Island, Sheffield Harbor, Betts Bay and Cops Island Bay.

The Managed Fields consist of: 90 moorings for Norwalk Yacht Club, 59 moorings for Sprite Island Yacht Club, 75 moorings for Rowayton Yacht Club for a total of 224.

The Mooring Rules and Regulations for Anchoring Vessels in Norwalk Harbor were approved by the Common Council this year and the Rules and Regulations are linked on the Online Mooring System and the City of Norwalk website.

If mooring applicants have questions, suggestions or need the help of the Mooring Committee, please email us at nhmcmoorings@gmail.com

Marine Police Unit/ NFD Marine Unit

No report was given.

Bridges

Chairman Mobilia stated that the DOT has not responded to the NHMC request to combine the two projects on I-95. The first project involves the storm drain emptying into the harbor and the other involves the bridge drains emptying into the harbor. Mr. Steadman stated that the DOT will be responding to some of our requests but that it does not seem inclined to combine the two projects.

Chairman Mobilia stated that there have been several meetings about the WALK Bridge including a recent public hearing. He stated that last week at the Maritime Aquarium, the design company

presented the three different designs and explained the complexity of each one. Our comments on the WALK Bridge have been included with the City's comments from various offices and commissions. We have also sent in our comments separately.

Chairman Mobilia stated that work on the Stroffolino Bridge continues to go forward.

Application Review

1. DEEP Temporary Authorization No. 201614117-TA, Veteran's Memorial Park, City of Norwalk (for information purposes)

Mr. Gardella reported that he received letters from DEEP authorizing the placement of a crane for 90 days at Veteran's Park.

2. DEEP Notice of Tentative Determination to Approve Structures, Dredging & Fill and Tidal Wetlands and Intent to Waive Public Hearing, Application No. 201609394-MG, Water Sports Center, Inc.

Mr. Gardella stated that Coastwide Marine is closing down and moving to Jennings Road. He stated that our comment to them was that that they should go ahead with the move. The applicant should show the coordinates of the dock.

**** MR. AITORO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION ON THE CONDITION THAT THE APPLICANT SHOW DOCK COORDINATES BEFORE DEEP TAKES ACTION.**

**** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTIOIN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Zoning Commission Referral No. 16R Proposed amendment to Sec. 118-1110 Costal Zone regarding vegetated buffers from the Coastal Jurisdiction Line for properties in the Coastal Zone.

Mr. Steadman stated that the Zoning Commission is suggesting that a 10 foot vegetative buffer be added. He stated that the suggestion states "may" and not "shall" and that it might not be feasible in every instance. Mr. Aitoro stated that it is not feasible in the case of a bulk head.

**** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO TRANSMIT THESE COMMENTS AS STATED.**

**** MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. DEEP Pre-application plans CT Dot CP-243 Interlocking Project, Norwalk River Submarine Cable Crossing, Walk Bridge, CT Department of Transportation.

Mr. Steadman stated that the cable goes underneath the Walk Bridge and that the channel would have to be blocked for three weeks. The top four feet of material is contaminated and would have to be

brought on a barge to Devine Brothers. He stated that the DOT will be meeting with the Shellfish Commission in January. He suggested that we table this for now, and inform the DOT that we want to have the benefits of their comments to the Shellfish Commission and an analysis of the sediment data.

- ** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM PENDING THE DOT MEETING WITH THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION AND REQUIRING SEDIMENT DATA.**
- ** MR. AITORO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Finance

Mr. Aitoro stated that Ms. Schaefer needs to be reimbursed for \$308.72. He stated that there is a returned check for \$295. Chairman Mobilia stated that the proposed budget for NHMC was voted on during the last meeting and we will be meeting with members of the Finance Department on January 10, 2017 to justify the budget.

Plans and Recommendations

No report was given.

Water Quality

No report was given.

Newsletter/Website

Ms. Schaefer stated that the newsletter should not be sent in to be reprinted as it is no longer timely.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 16, 2016

- ** MR. GARDELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 16, 2016 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

No new or old business was brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services