

**NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 25, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Tony Mobilia; Jan Schaefer; Bill Gardella; Joe Perella; Tony Aitoro; Dennis Santella; John Pinto; Jose Cebrian (7:47 p. m.)

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 7:30 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 with the DOT and regarding the Walk Bridge. Our comments are posted online but the DOT wanted to meet in person as well to hear our comments. He stated that on January 10, 2017, he met with the Finance Committee about our grant. This was a preliminary meeting and more meetings will be held.

STAFF REPORTS

Consultant Steadman

No report was given.

Harbor Master

Mr. Griffin presented his Harbor Master 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 range Norwalk Walk Bridge project, Yankee Doodle/I-95 Bridge project, 2016 State of the Harbor and Shellfish meetings.

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. (Vessel continues to ride on ships anchor, NHMC Online Mooring system shows no 2016 mooring permit.)

Item#3 Please review the minutes of the 1-5-17 Shellfish regular monthly meeting e-mailed for your attention, thank you. Please note DOT, DEEP pre application temporary submerged cable presentation.

Item #4 End of 2016 harbor review showed all vessels off mooring by permit deadline 12-31-16 with exception of vessel report item #2.

Item #5 P & Z e-mail sent to your attention.

Item #6 Follow up to Item #5 e-mailed to your attention.

Life is not holding a good hand. Life is playing a poor hand well.

**** DR. PINTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE HARBOR MASTER REPORT AS SUBMITTED.**
**** MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Waterfront Advisory

Mr. Griffin presented the Waterfront Advisory Committee Report as follows:

1. The Boating Center Visitors Docks and Launch Ramp area remain closed and under construction to complete replacement of the launch ramps and elevation of the parking lot area. Work continues to be on track for completion by the required date of no later than May 1, 2017.
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. 2016 final expenses were submitted to DEEP under the guidelines of the cities contract under the Clean Vessel Act. Total expenses submitted for reimbursement were \$11,407.92.

Shellfish Commission

Chairman Mobilia stated that he and Consultant Steadman attended the January 5, 2017 Shellfish Commission meeting. At the meeting, the DOT made their presentation on the underwater cables to be placed under the Walk Bridge. He stated that the NHMC is still in the process of finalizing and agreement with the Shellfish Commission on the use of the shared boat.

Mr. Cebrian arrived at 7:47 p. m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mooring Committee

Mr. Santella presented the Mooring Committee Report as follows:

- The Mooring Committee is starting to address issues and concerns for the 2017 season.
- We are working to tighten up the submission of the required documents, including registration, insurance and tackle reports.
- The Committee is requiring that uncompleted applications will not be accepted or approved until all required documents are submitted. Currently we are waiting for confirmation from the OLM system to confirm this can be accomplished.
- Then emails will be sent, outlining the process for renewals and new applications for the 2017 Season.

Harbor Safety

No report was given.

Bridges

Chairman Mobilia stated that he does not have anything new to report on the Walk Bridge. He stated that the fender repair is finished and gone through without a hitch.

Mr. Steadman stated that the research project on auto runoff from bridges is being worked on. He stated that the NRVT has recommended that the two Yankee Doodle bridge projects be combined but the DOT has not said that they will do that.

Chairman Mobilia stated that there is nothing new to report on the Staffilino Bridge.

Application Review

1. 30 Meadow Street, Meadow Street Partners (the applicant) has proposed an amendment to Industrial # 1 zone to allow use of a contractor's storage yard for storage of empty containers and refuse collection receptacles associated with an approved solid waste transfer station. They request to add new criteria to restrict the operations of such use in the Industrial #1 zone. The applicant needs to remediate issues concerning alleged filling of tidal wetlands. The applicant has identified that the project will impact on tidal wetlands and is located within a Coastal hazard area.

Dr. Pinto stated that the applicant will be storing empty containers at the location. He stated that container storage has existed at this location for years, but it needs to be known if there will be changes to the storm water flow. Potential runoff needs to be addressed. Dr. Pinto stated that the Review Committee does not know details on the alleged filling of tidal wetlands, and the impact that would have on the application.

Dr. Pinto stated that the applicant should be required to follow best management practices to avoid runoff into the harbor and that the Committee reserves the right to review the application. The applicant must minimize runoff and create no adverse impact on adjoining wetlands.

**** MS. SCHAEFER MOVED THAT THE APPLICANT SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO AVOID RUNOFF INTO THE HARBOR AND THAT THE COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW THE APPLICATION. THE APPLICANT MUST MINIMIZE RUNOFF AND CREATE NO ADVERSE IMPACT ON ADJOINING WETLANDS.**

**** MR. CEBRAIN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. 80 Seaview Avenue. Certificate of Permission. COP involves rebuilding an existing seawall. At the same location, the applicant proposes to relocate a wooden building and install a public access deck. The existing deck will be converted from commercial use to public access.

Dr. Pinto stated that the location has an existing deck but that it is not accessible to the public. Currently, only customers of the establishment are permitted to use the deck. The deck will be converted to public use by the installation of a ramp. Discussion followed on the placement of the ramp. Harbor Master Griffin stated that signage will need to be put in to notify the public that the deck is open to the public.

**** MR. CEBRAIN MOVED TO SUPPORT THE REMEDIATION OF THE EXISTING SEAWALL.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Connecticut DOT. Walk Bridge Project. The applicant seeks to install a 260 ft. temporary submarine cable crossing that will run on the north side of the Walk Bridge. The temporary cables will be eventually be replaced by a permanent submarine cable enclosing power, signal and communications cables as part of the Walk Bridge Replacement Project (State Project No. 0301-0176). The updated design proposes construction of 260' long X 20'-36' wide trench that will be required to install the temporary fiber optic cables under the Norwalk River immediately north of the Walk Bridge. The ultimate trench width is dependent upon whether the cables can be installed using a hydrofluidization method or by conventional trenching and backfilling. Regardless of the installation method, upper four feet of sediment must be removed and properly disposed of offsite.

Dr. Pinto stated that the application is for a temporary submarine cable crossing that will run under the Walk Bridge. He stated that while the cable is temporary, it is not known if it will be removed after the installation of the permanent cable crossing. He stated that the installation should be done during an incoming or slack tide. Mr. Steadman stated that the Application Review Committee has informed the DOT that it does not support the decision to split this project into separate parts, and approval of this application does not rescind what we have said before about the Walk Bridge project.

- ** MR. GARDELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE PLACEMENT OF A TEMPORARY SUBMARINE CABLE WHILE REINERATING THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENTS REGARDING THE WALK BRIDGE PROJECT STILL HOLD.**
- ** MR. CEBRAIN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. 1 Jennings Place, Applicant Water Sorts Center, Inc.; 35 Seaview Ave: Relocation of docking facilities for Maritime Rowing Club. The applicant's request to re-locate its facilities from adjacent the Walk RR Bridge to river at 1 Jennings Place has been reviewed and commented upon by the Norwalk Harbor Commission. The Applicant now requires a zoning change to permanently relocate; In addition, it has requested use Veterans Park as a temporary facility pending construction of their new location.

Mr. Steadman stated that the Application Review Committee has commented favorably on the relocation. The committee has asked the applicant to provide surveyed coordinates to show the distance between the rowing dock and the channel so that the Corp of Engineers could evaluate if the setback is appropriate. He stated that there is an opportunity to improve storm water management. He stated that the applicant should be required to use best management practices to improve storm water management. Mr. Mobilia stated that the dock at the location is used by visitors and other boaters. The application should be reviewed for safety. Discussion followed on the ease of accessibility to the dock for boaters.

- ** MR. CEBRAIN MOVED TO submit a letter to DEEP requesting more information.**
- ** MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. Discussion of the Pilot Program supported by the Norwalk Common Council's Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee to station the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service research vessel at the David S. Dunavan Boating Center at Veterans Memorial Park and other items that were inadvertently not referred to the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission for review.

Mr. Mobilia stated that the Pilot Program is a good program. He stated that the research vessel will be stored at the dock for significant periods of time throughout the day and could prevent other uses for that area of the dock.

- ** MS. SCHAEFER MOVED TO SUBMIT A LETTER REQUESTING MORE INFORMATION.**
- ** MR. CEBRAIN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Finance Report

Mr. Aitoro stated that he submitted the vouchers for Telesco Secretarial Services. He stated he is waiting for more information which is necessary before he can reimburse Ms. Schaefer for newsletter expenses. Chairman Mobilia stated that he has postage to submit to Mr. Aitoro.

Plans & Recommendations

No report was given.

Water Quality

Chairman Mobilia stated that Mayor Rilling is in the process of putting together a Water Quality Committee.

Newsletter/Website

Mr. Perella stated that the creation of a NHMC Facebook page would enable him to post documents that he is unable to post on the regular Facebook page that the NHMC currently uses. He explained the differences between a Facebook Page and a Facebook Group and asked if anyone objected to him setting up a Group. No one present objected and he stated that he would create the Group.

Nominating

Commission Officers Harbor Master

The Commission went into Executive Session at 9:14 p.m.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 10:45 p. m.

Dr. Pinto stated that a letter recommending a Harbor Master and Deputy Harbor Master will be submitted to the Governor. He stated that Greg Scully, Mike Griffin and Tony D'Andrea will be recommended to the Governor for the position of Harbor Master. Paul Saviano, Greg Scully, and Jeff Mangels are recommended for Deputy Harbor Master.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

State of the Harbor December 14, 2016

Correct spelling to "Schnierlein"

Harbor Safety and Mooring Report should read 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 Coppins 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 nhmc Moorings@gmail.com

- ** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**
- ** MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THREE ABSTENTIONS (DR. PINTO, MR. CEBRAIN, AND MR. AITORO.)**

Regular Meeting December 14, 2016

No Harbor Safety and Mooring Report was given.

- ** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.**
- ** MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THREE ABSTENTIONS (DR. PINTO, MR. CEBRAIN, AND MR. AITORO.)**

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Mobilia stated that a plaque for John Frank, who was Chairman of the Shellfish Commission, is being worked on.

- ** MR. SCANTELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services

