

**Five Mile River Commission**  
March 30, 2017 Meeting Minutes  
The Moose Room, Rowayton Community Center  
33 Highland Ave., Rowayton, CT 06853

*Commissioners in attendance:*

Matthew Marion - Chairman  
Dirk Leasure  
John de Regt

David Snyder, Harbor Superintendent

*Guests:*

Derek Mulcahy – Darien PD  
Dan Skoumbros – Darien PD  
Peter LaPak – Norwalk PD  
George Ward – Five Mile River Works  
Mary Ilchert – Five Mile River Works  
Tammy Papp – Boatworks  
Chuck Luscomb – Boatworks/Wilson Cove Marina  
Ted O'Neill – All Seasons Marina

*Absent:*

William Jessup (Commissioner)

The March meeting started at 7:34 pm. A quorum was present.

By unanimous vote, the attending Commissioners approved the February 23, 2017 meeting minutes, which they had previously reviewed and pre-approved electronically and filed with Darien and Norwalk within the statutory period.

Representatives from Darien's and Norwalk's marine police divisions, as well as boatyards and marine service providers, joined the meeting for an open discussion about issues of recurring concern on the Five Mile River, including:

- Paddle boarders
  - o Comments focused on continuing to improve the safe use of paddleboards, including adhering to channels and wearing pfd's at all times
- No-Wake Zone
  - o The Commission and marine police both confirmed the overall improvement in boaters' compliance with no wake zone restrictions in the Five Mile River. The Commission attributed the improvement in part to regular patrols by the marine police and thanked them for their efforts.

- Pump Out Boats
  - o Boatworks reported that its dockside public pump out facility is being repaired and will be operable for the 2017 season. The facility will be available for public use.

Norwalk/Darien Marine Police also discussed slip squatters (encouraged reporting of these activities), spot checks of current state vessel registrations, PFD verifications, and the steps to consider taking when an oil/gas sheen is seen (immediately notifying Norwalk Marine Police). After some discussion, the representatives of Darien's and Norwalk's marine police departments departed the meeting.

Next, Chairman Marion reminded the marina representatives involved in renting boat slips about the importance of helping the Commission to collect the annual use fee from their renters. This led to discussion of future dredging activities, including the likely time frame, funding sources, and the steps involved in the actual dredging operation. Harbor Superintendent Snyder reported that he plans to meet with George Ward in early spring to reinstall the kayak trail moorings and will also review the overall mooring string placements with the various marina operators. After completing their comments on these issues, the marina representatives left the meeting.

Then, the Commission discussed the issue of boats aground at docks in the river and possible strategies for mitigating the resulting harm in future dock applications. The consensus was that the Commission should work directly with the DEEP to identify the most practicable approach to addressing this problem.

The meeting ended at 8:55 pm. The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 7:30 pm in the Board Room, Rowayton Community Center, 33 Highland Avenue, Rowayton, Connecticut

Respectively submitted, David Snyder, Harbor Superintendent.