

**CITY OF NORWALK
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 27, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Tony Mobilia, Chair; Dennis Santella; John Pinto; Bill Gardella; Jan Schaefer; John Crespo

ABSENT: Tony Aitoro; John Romano; Joseph Perella

STAFF: Geoff Steadman, Consultant; Gregg Scully, Harbor Master; Officer Silva, NPD

OTHERS: Pete Johnson, Steven Bartush, Shellfish Commission; Deb Gibson; Kelsey Yates

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

Mr. Mobilia called the meeting to order at 7:30 p. m. Dr. Pinto led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Mobilia requested a moment of silence for Paul Saviano, who recently passed away.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. Mobilia called the roll. A quorum was present.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Mobilia stated that Mr. Cebrian has submitted his resignation and Mr. John Crespo has joined the Commission.

Mr. Mobilia stated that he attended a meeting on Manresa Island. The planning consultant did a study on the possible uses for the island.

Mr. Mobilia stated that the scheduled meeting with the CT DOT to discuss the drains on I-95 has been postponed. He stated that there is currently a meeting on the first floor of City Hall to inform the public on the Walk Bridge. He stated that the CT DOT is still reporting that they are at 30%.

4. STAFF REPORTS

a. Harbor Master

Mr. Scully stated he went over plans with the director of the boat show and signed off on the permits. He stated he made arrangements with the director of the boat show to launch a first ever touch a boat display. He arranged to have the Marine Police boat and the Fire Boat on display for the public, Officers will be present to answer any questions.

Mr. Scully stated he has been dealing with a mooring customer unhappy with his location and surrounding boats. The customer has sold his tackle and left the Harbor. He stated he was contacted by the Coast Guard regarding a white sailboat in the middle of the channel near Buoy 19.

Mr. Scully contacted the owner and the boat was signed over to the City. It will be hauled and destroyed. He stated he had multiple issues with the owner of a 39" sailboat. The owner has left the Norwalk Harbor and relocated himself towards New York.

Mr. Scully stated he reviewed and signed permits for the Lighthouse to Lighthouse relay race for September 16, 2017. He stated he was contacted by a sailboat owner requesting a mooring for his 62' long with a 10' draft boat for a mooring in the East Basin. He explained to the owner that he will not be able to use that location. He stated he collected photos of the Islands and existing moorings to get a base line for next year. Discussion followed on the tagging of moorings.

Mr. Scully stated he reviewed and signed off on the Sono Half Marathon for October 14, 2017. He stated that a portion of the race is a swim in Norwalk Harbor.

Mr. Scully stated he is reviewing existing moorings, fees, and inspections.

**** DR. PINTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE HARBOR MASTER REPORT AS SUBMITTED.**
**** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Consultant

No report was given.

5. SHELLFISH COMMISSION

Mr. Bartush stated that the Shellfish Commission reviewed the application for 61 Bluff. He stated the application for 17 Bluff was tabled pending site inspection. He stated that IDs are not necessary when doing site inspections but that the Police Department should be given notification before they are done.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Application Review

1. 61 Bluff Avenue LLC, Wilson Cove Norwalk, Pre-application review. The applicant, Mr. Matthew Schimenti, proposes to construct a 4'x 41' long steel framed pier with a 3.5'x45' aluminum ramp and an 8'x20' timber floating dock. The pier structure will be supported by (four) 12" diameter steel piles and the floating dock will be secured by (four) 12" diameter steel piles.

Dr. Pinto stated he has no objections to the application going through. He stated that there should be clearance under the dock. Work boats should have mooring balls instead of spuds being put down. HE stated that the surface area of the dock should be 100 sq. ft. instead of 200 sq. ft.

**** MR. GARDELLA MOVED TO SEND A LETTER TO THE 61 BLUFF AVENUE LLC, WILSON COVE NORWALK APPLICANT WITH DR. PINTO'S COMMENTS.**
**** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. 198-200 East Avenue. CAM Application. The applicant, Dimitrios Dimitrogou, proposes to combine the one and two-unit residential dwellings on the current properties into one new address (200 East Avenue). Part of the re-construction is to elevate a deck on his property which appears to be waterward of the coastal jurisdiction line on the property.

Dr. Pinto reviewed the application and recommended approval.

**** MR. GARDELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE 198-200 EAST AVENUE. CAM APPLICATION. THE APPLICANT, DIMITRIOS DIMITROGOU, PROPOSES TO COMBINE THE ONE AND TWO-UNIT RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS ON THE CURRENT PROPERTIES INTO ONE NEW ADDRESS (200 EAST AVENUE). PART OF THE RE-CONSTRUCTION IS TO ELEVATE A DECK ON HIS PROPERTY WHICH APPEARS TO BE WATERWARD OF THE COASTAL JURISDICTION LINE ON THE PROPERTY.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Eversource Transmission Line Relocation-Pre-application review. Presentation by Eversource of the preferred route for the relocated transmission lines for the WALK BRIDGE project.

Dr. Pinto gave an overview of the presentation that was given by Ms. Marcia Wellman. He reviewed the path the transmission lines will follow and the drilling method that will be used. Dr. Pinto stated that Ms. Wellman will be sending a formal letter to the Commission in response to concerns that were raised during the presentation. Eversource will have to explain the impact of putting the transmission lines underneath the dock at Veteran's Park.

4. Vessel Relocation Study Walk Bridge Project-- The study addresses construction- related impacts to the Maritime Aquarium research vessel and the Sheffield Island Lighthouse Ferry, both located between Walk Bridge and Stroffolino Rt. 136 Bridge. The study evaluates the need to relocate both vessels and presents physical alternatives intended to support safe operations for the organizations affected by the Walk Bridge construction project.

Dr. Pinto stated that we have insufficient information. We cannot give a favorable recommendation at this time.

5. Kelp Farm, South of Sheffield Island, Jean Paul Vellotti, Westport, CT. Tentative Notice to Approve. The applicant plans to construct a seasonal kelp farm in the vicinity south of Sheffield Island. The system will be deployed in late fall and removed in early spring.

Dr. Pinto stated the applicant had the application prepared by a professional engineer and has agreed to remove the system by June 1, 2018.

6. 195 Yankee Doodle Bridge Rehabilitation Project: Although no formal application has been presented to Norwalk Harbor Management Commission regarding this project and with time permitting, a brief discussion of the proposal will be held.

Dr. Pinto stated that the CT DOT has included retention ponds in their latest plans. He stated that this is a substantial improvement, as the CT DOT had not previously acknowledged that the ditches were needed.

b. Finance

Mr. Mobilia stated that the Telesco bills have been paid. The Harbor Master requisition has been submitted and signed off on by Mr. Aitoro. Mr. Mobilia stated that we have not paid for the study yet. He stated we have received a bill from Earthplace for the interns and supplies. He stated that the bill comes to \$1,500.

- ** MR. GARDELLA MOVED TO APPROVE A PAYMENT TO EARTHPLACE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500.
- ** MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Plans and Recommendations

Ms. Schaefer stated that she spoke with staff in the Planning & Zoning Department. They discussed the timing of our survey. It was decided to wait before sending our survey out.

d. Newsletter / Web site

Ms. Schaefer stated that the current newsletter is getting a lot of attention. She stated that a new issue will need to be sent out for the State of the Harbor meeting.

e. Water Quality

Mr. Mobilia gave an overview of the water conditions in the harbor.

f. Bridges

No report was given.

g. Mooring and Harbor Safety

Marine Police Unit

NFD Marine Unit

No reports were given.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 23, 2017

Page 1 – Change “meeting” to “meetings”

Page 4 - Change "Mr. Mobilia stated he would email Mr. Cebrian regarding the issue" to "Mr. Mobilia stated he would email Mr. Cebrian regarding the issue of his attendance."

** DR. PINTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 23, 2017 MINUTES AS AMENDED.
** MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. NEW BUSINESS / OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Mobilia stated that attendance continues to be an issue. Ms. Schaefer stated that the Nominating Committee needs to get together for the Deputy Harbor Master position.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Deb Gibson came forward to state that she is following the developments of the Walk Bridge.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services