

**CITY OF NORWALK
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 25, 2017**

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

ABSENT: John Romano; Tony Aitoro

STAFF/OTHERS: Mayor Harry Rilling; Lucia Rilling; Geoff Steadman, Consultant; Gregg Scully, Harbor Master; Officer Mike Silva, Sergeant Pete Lapak, NPD; Peter Fraboni, Nikki Cantatore, Harbor Watch

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mobilia called the meeting to order at 7:30 p. m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. Mobilia called the roll.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Mobilia led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Introduction of Commissioners, staff, dignitaries and others.

Mayor Rilling thanked the members of the commission for volunteering their time and energy to the City.

5. DAVID S DUNAVAN AWARD

Dr. Pinto stated that Paul Saviano will be awarded the David S. Dunavan Award. Mrs. Carrie Saviano accepted the award on his behalf. Dr. Pinto stated that Mr. Saviano had been appointed as Deputy Harbor Master in April by Governor Dannel Malloy. With great dedication to the city and the waterfront, Mr. Saviano was a former member of the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission and former Chairman of the Mayor's Water Quality Committee.

6. PRESENTATIONS

Dredging

Dr. Pinto gave an overview of the three phases of dredging of the Norwalk Harbor that took place between 1996 and 2014. He reviewed the costs of each phase and the methods used for disposing of contaminated sediment.

Water Quality

Mr. Steadman stated that the CT DOT has been planning work on the I-95 Bridge. He stated that storm water management was not part of that plan even though storm water runoff from the bridge has been causing contamination of the Harbor. In discussions with the Commission, the DOT stated that contamination of the Harbor was caused by a separate drain off of I-95 and local City streets.

Mr. Steadman stated that the Commission has a Study done on the water pollution coming from the I-95 Bridge and presented it to the CT DOT. He stated that the DOT has now updated its plans to include two retention ponds on either side of the bridge. He stated that it was a positive development that the ponds will be in place to handle storm water runoff.

Harbor Watch/River Watch

Ms. Nikki Cantatore stated that Harbor Watch monitors the Norwalk River for indicator bacteria and other physical parameters at 12 sites year-round. From May through September, the sites are monitored once per week. From October through April, the sites are monitored once per month. Harbor Watch has this type of data for the river from 1998 to the present. Through “track-down surveys” completed by Harbor Watch, certain sections of the river have been de-listed from the list of CT impaired waterways.

Ms. Cantatore stated that nine continuously-flowing storm drain outfalls in Norwalk are monitored for indicator bacteria twice per month. When elevated counts are observed consistently, our monitoring teams partner with the City of Norwalk to conduct an investigation manhole-by-manhole through the storm drain system until a point source is identified, at which point city officials work to have it remediated. Harbor Watch has bacteria data on these storm drains from 2010 to the present.

Mr. Peter Fraboni stated that Dick Harris founded Harbor Watch in 1986 as a citizens’ volunteer water quality monitoring group. Harbor Watch is a premier water quality program in Fairfield County, Connecticut, inspiring water quality improvements and appreciation throughout the region. The program simultaneously addresses Long Island Sound contamination and educates the next generation of scientists through hands-on research and experiential learning. He stated that Harbor Watch has trained over 1,000 high school students, college interns, and adult volunteers in the work of protecting and improving the biological integrity of Long Island Sound.

7. REPORTS

NPD Marine Unit

Sergeant Pete Lapak stated that there were about 300 calls this year. He stated there were four custodial arrests. In the previous few years, we had about 200 calls per year.

Sgt. Lapak stated that there are four rowing clubs that operate on the Harbor with a total of about 400 rowers. He stated that we have four officers that man two boats each weekend.

Harbor Master

Harbor Master Scully stated that he has been working on payments for moorings, abandoned moorings, permits, and safety of the people that use the Harbor. He stated that improvements have been made to the Harbor Master boat and safety equipment has been purchased. The boat can now be used to assist in Search and Rescue Operations.

NFD Marine Unit

Mr. Mobilia read a report prepared by Captain Jon Maggio. Captain Maggio reported that five people from two different occasions had been removed from Peach Island after vessels were disabled.

He stated that Operation Wild Water is underway. The operation encourages vessel owners to put Identification Stickers on their crafts. He stated that this is a big help when unmanned vessels are discovered.

Mooring

Mr. Santella stated that the Online Mooring System continues to show improvement and compliance by most of the mooring applicants. There are 110 mooring permits in the system for the 2017 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 Copps Island Bay.

Mr. Santella stated that there are three managed fields, which are Norwalk Yacht Club, Sprite Yacht Club, and Rowayton Yacht Club. Norwalk Yacht Club has 87 moorings. Sprite Island Yacht Club has 59 moorings, and Rowayton Yacht Club has 74 moorings.

Mr. Santella stated that in this upcoming season, the Mooring Committee plans to address ongoing issues and with the Online Mooring System for a more user friendly site. He stated the Online Mooring System is working on a direct link to the CT DMV boat registration data for use in the 2018 season mooring applications. If mooring applicants have questions, suggestions or need the help of the Mooring Committee, please email us at nhmcmoorings@gmail.com.

Boating Safety

Mr. Santella stated that he NHMC approved, for the 2018 boating season, the following safety equipment on the Harbor Masters boat: portable ladder, flashlight, four spreader lights on the roof, a throw rope, flare kit, medical bag with oxygen, dock lines, life vests, and binoculars. Once the safety equipment is added, the Harbor Master's Boat can be used to help with rescue and safety on the water.

Application Review, the Commission's Role

Dr. Pinto stated that the Commission reviews all Coastal Management Applications. All applications must be consistent with the Harbor Management Plan.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

A gentleman stated that the review process of his application by DEEP has been slow. Dr. Pinto stated that he Commission has reviewed the application and sent comments to DEEP. Dr. Pinto recommended that the gentleman continue to follow up with DEEP.

9. ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services