

**Five Mile River Commission
February 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Darien Town Hall Room 119
2 Renshaw Road, Darien, CT 06853**

Commission members in attendance:

Matthew Marion - Chairman
Dirk Leasure
Wim Jessup
John deRegt

David Snyder, Harbor Superintendent
Steve Bartush, Assistant Harbor Superintendent

Absent: None

Guests: Ashley Pirosseno, Eric Stern, Jurek & Stephanie Antoszewski, Clay Persinger, and Chuck Luscomb

The Five Mile River Commission meeting commenced at 7:34 with a unanimous vote to ratify the Commission's prior approval of its January 2018 meeting minutes, which were reviewed, approved, and filed electronically with Darien and Norwalk within the statutory period shortly after the January meeting.

At the outset of the meeting, Chairman Marion commended Commissioner Jessup for receiving the U.S. Coast Guard's Meritorious Service Award based on his direct involvement in helping to save 9 people from an overturned boat on Buzzard's Bay last summer.

Chairman Marion then diverged from the order of agenda items to allow public comments at the beginning of the meeting. Guest Clay Persinger reported to the Commission about the 10th annual Charity Bass Tournament "Bassa Palooza" that will be held June 2, 2018 on the pier near Rowayton Seafood Restaurant. Tournament proceeds will go to Save the Sound. The Commission inquired about the mechanics of the event. Mr. Persinger confirmed all fishing activities would take place on Long Island Sound and that tournament attendees arriving at the end of day ceremonies would primarily be coming via ground transportation, and thus would not need to use the mooring field. He asked that someone from the Five Mile River Commission attend, and Commissioner Jessup volunteered.

Chuck Luscomb from Boatworks took the floor to discuss the ground tackle inspection process and the challenges of resetting mooring anchors post-inspection in the exact locations from which they are pulled. He asked about the permissibility of leaving mooring mushrooms on the river bottom and using a diver to inspect only visible parts of the ground tackle. With a number of concerns, the Commission took Mr. Luscomb's

comments under advisement and agreed to revisit his proposal no later than its next meeting.

Jurek Antoszewski, owner/manager of two marinas on the river, expressed concerns about the channel configuration adjacent to his marinas. He suggested that over time marine service providers have reset moorings out of alignment with the axis of the river and increasingly close to his docks. The Commission discussed his concerns in light of its current project, headed by Commissioner DeRegt and Harbour Superintendent Snyder, to rationalize and reconfigure the mooring strings on the river, and agreed to look specifically at the strings adjacent to his marinas. Mr. Antoszewski also mentioned his plan to combine his two marinas and the impact that zoning/parking issues might have on that plan. Commissioner Marion asked for more information and agreed to revisit the issue at a future meeting.

The Commission then reviewed the DEEP permit application covering a beach replenishment project at 4 Butler's Island Road (Tokeneke Club) and, after some discussion, agreed unanimously on its response to the DEEP.

Commissioner deRegt reported on the mooring field assessment project. Discussion covered the logistics and efficacy of using a diver to inspect ground tackle and mushrooms in the water, with the mushroom and part of the tackle buried in the mud, versus pulling the ground tackle out of the water for inspection. The Commission agreed to continue its discussions with the marine service performing these inspections as part of the bi-annual inspection cycle, and to monitor their efforts closely. Harbor Superintendent Snyder and Commissioner deRegt confirmed that they will finalize their mooring string recommendations, and meet with marine service providers to review those recommendations, prior to next meeting.

Chairman Marion and Commissioner Leasure are currently working to amass an accurate current database of private dock owners on the river. They will report their findings to the Commission at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2018 at 7:30 pm at Darien Town Hall in Room 119, 2 Renshaw Road Darien, Connecticut.

Respectively submitted, David Snyder, Harbor Superintendent.