

Five Mile River Commission
October 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Rowayton Community Center, Meeting Room
Norwalk, CT

Commission members in attendance:

Matt Marion (Chairman)
Dirk Leasure

Absent Commissioners:

Wim Jessup
John deRegt

Also Present:

David Snyder, Harbor Superintendent
Steve Bartush, Assistant Harbor Superintendent

The Five Mile River Commission meeting commenced at 7:34 without a quorum. Chairman Marion confirmed that the September 2018 meeting minutes were distributed, unanimously approved, and filed electronically with Darien and Norwalk within the statutory period shortly after the Commission's September meeting.

Chairman Marion thanked the Harbor Superintendent Snyder for his recent assistance regarding an overturned power boat in the Five Mile River. Discussion over response protocol focused on prompt communications with the Coast Guard and Norwalk's Marine Police, and, to the extent possible, with the distressed vessel's owner. The Harbor Superintendent reported that the vessel had been refloated and removed from the river.

Discussion then turned to the mooring field. The Harbor Superintendent reported that abandoned batteries had been discovered near the A-String section of the mooring field, and, at the Commission's request, promised to confirm when the batteries were removed. Chairman Marion then reiterated the Commission's September request that Harbor Superintendent Snyder follow up with the marinas identified as the most recent managers of the abandoned moorings on the Western E-F lines to notify their former customers to remove this abandoned tackle, or face forfeiture of the tackle. Last, the Harbor Superintendent agreed to request that the marine service providers mark the beginning and ends of each mooring string with marker buoys for accurate re-setting in 2019.

Harbor Superintendent Snyder confirmed that the owners of the one remaining sailboat which had failed to complete their 2018 ground tackle inspection did so.

Next, as part of his meeting report to the Commission, the Harbor Superintendent circulated revised written guidelines regarding the mooring field. Issues under consideration included standardizing the length of mooring chain used by moored boats, procedures for sharing bow/stern anchors with neighboring vessels, the marking of mooring balls, and ways to handle abandoned mooring tackle. Commissioners Marion and Leasure agreed that guidelines would be useful generally to identify best practices and establish consistency among marine service providers and mooring permittees in the river, and thanked Harbor Superintendent for his work on the draft guidelines. Discussion by the Commission was tabled until the December meeting.

Harbor Superintendent Snyder presented YTD expense and income reports for the past two months. These reports were in line with previous year results. He also reported that since the last meeting notices regarding hurricane preparedness and vacating the mooring field had been sent out, and a new mooring map was provided to the relevant marine service providers. Harbor Superintendent reported that 3 transient boaters used the designated transient mooring spot in the river. The Commission needs to complete the Dockwa sign up application.

Commissioner Leasure asked if there were records of each marina's dock customers, including those who have paid or not paid the annual harbor use fee. Harbor Superintendent Snyder advised that each marina had been segmented (out of a master database) into their own individual spreadsheets so that identifying the payment history of dock customers from each marinas was possible.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm. The next Five Mile River Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2018 at Rowayton Community Center Board Room 33 Highland Avenue Rowayton, Connecticut.